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Former deputies promise to halt Monday rallies

A GROUP of former National Assembly deputies has promised to halt the Monday rallies in respect to HH the Amir's address and in order to provide the necessary atmosphere for the success of the dialogue.

This commitment was given on Monday night when five former parliamentarians met deputy speaker Saleh Al Fadalah, Dr. Ahmad Al Khatib, Homoud Al Rouni, Faisal Al Sani and Jassem Al Oun — met HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

The deputies also expressed their commitment to the positive and constructive dialogue

aimed at returning to the parliamentary life.

Fadalah in a statement to a local daily said that they were invited by the Crown Prince and added that Sheikh Saad expressed satisfaction over the positive atmosphere that prevailed during the meeting between him and 28 former National Assembly deputies that took place on Saturday.

In a related development, a group of 32 former deputies held a meeting Monday to discuss the results of the dialogue which took place between them and the Crown Prince on Saturday. The former deputies were supposed to continue their meeting at the residence of

the former speaker, Ahmad Al Saadoun.

Speaking on the issue, Saadoun said in a press statement that the Crown Prince preferred during Saturday's meeting to listen to the opinions and views of the former deputies concerning the modalities of the return to parliamentary life. He added that Sheikh Saad stressed on the importance of an elected National Assembly and promised to carry out all views of HH the Amir.

Saadoun added that the former deputies had requested the Crown Prince to explain the remarks about the negative practices of the National Assembly so as to discuss these ob-

stacles within the framework of the constitution. However, Sheikh Saad expressed his preference to hear the opinions of the deputies.

Sheikh Saad told the Kuwait University newspaper Al Khareej (The Graduate) in an interview that in principle, there is no dispute about the resumption of the parliamentary life. He added, the aim of the ongoing dialogue is not procrastination but to arrive at a new formula and arrive at pragmatic solutions.

The Crown Prince went on to state that during his meetings with citizens, many concepts and proposals were made which

basically revolved on the same theme: "All are with the return of the Assembly, but in accordance with some innovative basis and regulations."

Responding to a query on the expected duration of the dialogue is expected to take, the Crown Prince said: "Let the dialogue take its own time so that it will ensure that the meetings will contribute positively to delivering the goods."

He commented that we are now searching through these dialogues for a formula that will avert the possibility of a third parliamentary crisis.

GCC goals yet to be achieved

KUWAIT, March 6. (Agencies): The nine-year-old Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) has yet to achieve many of its stated goals, HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah was quoted today as saying.

"It could be said that the council did not achieve many ambitions and wishes and I confess that is true," Sheikh Saad told the Kuwait University newspaper Al Khareej (the graduate) in an interview that was reported by local dailies.

He gave no examples, but goals of the six-nation economic and military alliance still to be achieved include unification of currencies, trade and customs regulations, and penal codes.

The Riyadh-based GCC groups, Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) members Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates with Bahrain and Oman.

The GCC was formed a few months after the Iran-Iraq war broke out in 1980.

Sheikh Saad said there is a plan to fragment the Arab world by creating problems in each Arab country and creating conflict between neighbouring Arab countries.

"I believe it is aimed at weakening the Arab world, politically and financially," he said.

He added: "A plan backed by big powers was hatched to enable these powers to establish footholds in the Gulf region."



Dubcek welcome

Czechoslovakia's former reformist Communist leader and present Speaker of Parliament Alexander Dubcek (left) is welcomed by French Prime Minister Michel Rocard in Paris yesterday. Dubcek is on a two-day private visit to France. (Reuter wirephoto)

New record

WASHINGTON, March 6. (Reuter): The SR-71 "Blackbird" spy plane, leaving service after more than two decades of top-secret surveillance missions, shattered the speed record for flying above the United States today as it flew into retirement and the history books.

Flown by a US Air Force pilot, the sleek, black, delta-winged aircraft, said to be capable of speeds of 2,200 miles (3,500 km) per hour, sped from Los Angeles to Washington in one hour and four minutes, shattering a record set in 1953.

Iran to buy subs

NICOSIA, March 6. (AP): Iran is planning to add submarines to its naval fleet, the head of the Iranian Navy said today.

The Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Rear Adm. Ali Shamsi as saying: "The navy is acquiring sophisticated air and sea defence systems besides submarines."

Oldest man dies

TOKYO, March 6. (AP): Kiichi Fujiwara, believed to be Japan's oldest man at 109 years and two months, died of natural causes today at an old age home in Zushi near Tokyo, the home said.

Born on Dec. 17, 1880, Fujiwara had been the country's oldest man since Jan. 11 this year, according to Japan's Health and Welfare Ministry. The oldest man in Japan now is Nishiburo Matsuyama, at 108 years and four months, an official of the ministry said.

Minister quits

TRIPOLI, March 6. (Reuter): Libyan Transport Secretary Mubarak Al Shamsi resigned today after telling parliament that "criminals" had seized control of a state-owned shipping firm, infested with corruption.

He told a meeting of the General People's Congress that the workers' committee of the Jerna Company had paid each worker 2,000 dinars (\$6,800) in a form of bribe before committee elections last year.

Weather

CLOUDY to partly cloudy weather with moderate to fresh northwesterly wind and a chance for scattered rain. State of sea: Rough. High water: 10.00 am, 7.00 pm. Low water: 1.00 am, 2.00 pm. Sunrise: 6.07 am. Sunset: 5.51 pm. Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 25°C 77°F. Adhmad: 18°C 64°F. Fakhra: 22°C 72°F. Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 15°C 59°F. Adhmad: 15°C 59°F. Fakhra: 14°C 57°F. Maximum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 29°C 84°F. Adhmad: 17°C 63°F. Fakhra: 16°C 61°F. Minimum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 63 per cent. Adhmad: 72 per cent. Fakhra: 67 per cent.

Najib foils rebel backed coup bid

Defence minister flees; curfew in Kabul

ISLAMABAD, March 6. (Agencies): The Soviet-backed Afghan government said today it had smashed a coup attempt in Kabul led by Defence Minister Shahinawaz Tanai backed by mujahedeen, and that Tanai had fled.

President Najibullah has appointed Interior Minister Aslam Watanjar the new defence minister, the official Kabul Radio said.

A curfew was imposed on Kabul from 7.00 pm (1300 GMT), said the

broadcast, monitored in the Pakistani capital Islamabad where a major rebel group announced its support for the coup attempt.

"Shahinawaz Tanai's conspiracy has failed," the radio quoted military headquarters as saying in a statement.

Another statement issued in the name of Najibullah said: "Shahinawaz Tanai escaped after his coup attempt failed."

"As a result of the Afghan military operation, a number of people who had joined with Tanai's conspiracy against the government were severely punished and a number of others had given themselves up to the military headquarters," it said.

Government plea rejected

Enrile freed on bail

MANILA, March 6. (Reuter): Philippine opposition leader Juan Ponce Enrile, facing rebellion and murder charges, was freed on bail this evening after the Supreme Court granted a petition for his temporary release.

"I feel like a bird that has been imprisoned and just been freed," said former defence minister Enrile after spending one week in a Manila jail.

"I have to continue with my work as a senator," the 66-year-old former defence minister said to cheers of about 200 supporters who packed the office of Camp Karingal police barracks in the Manila suburb of Quezon City.

Enrile, charged for his alleged role in a December attempt to oust President Corason Aquino, was smiling broadly as he was released, but looked tired.

The man who locked up thousands during a period of martial law in the Philippines between 1972 and 1981 said he would return home to his family before going to the Senate on Wednesday.

He was freed pending a Supreme Court decision on the validity of the charges against him.

Enrile, a prominent lawyer and businessman, was defence minister for 17 years until Aquino sacked him in November 1986.

The Supreme Court ordered Enrile freed on bail of 100,000 pesos (\$400), rejecting a government plea that he was a threat to the state. Ten judges voted in favour, but four were opposed to the bail petition.

The government insists its evidence against Enrile is strong and the court's decision will not affect its moves to convict him.

Aquino's spokesman, Tomas Gomez, described the court ruling as a "temporary decision" that would allow Enrile to attend Senate sessions as the lone opposition member.

"It's not finished yet. It does not diminish the quality of the evidence held by the government," Gomez told reporters.

The court still has to rule on the validity of the charges — rebellion coupled with murder. The defence argues the double charge is unconstitutional. But Gomez said if the court ruled it was valid Enrile could be rearrested.



Enrile hugs his wife Cristina, after a hearing at Supreme Court in Manila on his petition to be freed on bail. (Reuter wirephoto)



After crisis talks

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher smiles before addressing a news conference. Genscher held crisis talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl resulting in Kohl backing down on his demand that a united Germany should only recognise Poland's post-war borders if Poland renounced claims for war reparation. (Reuter wirephoto)

Peres issues ultimatum

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 6. (Reuter): Israel's Labour Party will quit the coalition government unless Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Party accepts by tomorrow a US formula for peace talks with Palestinians, army radio said today.

"The inner cabinet must be convened tomorrow and must give a positive response to (American Secretary of State James) Baker's peace initiative," the radio said. Labour cabinet ministers decided at

a meeting today.

Shamir's rightist Likud had demanded that Israel should insist on the exclusion of East Jerusalem Arabs from future elections.

Labour leader Vice-Premier Shimon Peres, summoned his ministers to meet today after saying Likud had effectively rejected Baker's formula for talks with Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Soviets can own property

MOSCOW, March 6. (Reuter): The Soviet Parliament today passed a fundamental law regarded as a major step towards legalising the concept of private property, long regarded as taboo in a communist society.

The law on property was approved by a vote of 350 to three, with 11 abstentions, by the Supreme Soviet, the country's standing Parliament, after a long and heated debate.

It covers a broad range of property rights, including the right to own factories, but bans any exploitation of workers.

Israel captures Fatah officer from intercepted ship

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 6. (Agencies): Israel said today it had intercepted a ship off the Lebanese coast and seized two members of the PLO Fatah group, one of them a senior officer.

A military spokesman said the Israeli Navy stopped the ship 11 days ago and forced it to sail to Israel with all its passengers.

Israel released the vessel today, letting go all on board except the two members of Fatah, which is led by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

The captured PLO officer was identified by a military spokesman as Said Sanouna, who

was about to be appointed to a senior post in Lebanon.

The vessel was en route from Cyprus to Lebanon when it was seized, said a military spokesman.

"A routine Israeli navy patrol on Feb 23 detained a suspicious ship off the Lebanese coast. The ship and all those aboard were brought to Israel," the spokesman said.

"At the conclusion of a preliminary investigation, a senior Fatah officer and a wanted accomplice were located and remain under further investigation in Israel."

"The ship and the remainder of the passengers were released this morning." It gave no



Agony in Beirut

A Christian father carries his crippled son and enters one of the devastated areas in battered East Beirut after fighting between rival Christian forces was halted following a threat by the Maronite patriarch to excommunicate the warring factions. (Reuter wirephoto)

Jewish influx a threat to world

KUWAIT'S Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed yesterday warned that the influx of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine was posing a threat to world security and not only to the future of region.

The issue, he said, must be thoroughly and attentively discussed in the coming Arab conferences as the Arab world must come up with a common stand on the emigration and its perils.

He made the remarks while talking to reporters after meeting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's top aide Osama Al Baz, who arrived here last night in a previously unannounced visit.

Sheikh Sabah said he discussed with Al Baz the Jewish emigration and Israel's plans to settle immigrants in Arab territories occupied by Israel.

The talks also dealt with Egypt's efforts to push forward the Middle East peace process and US proposals for bringing Palestinians and Israelis to direct dialogue that will be hosted by Cairo, he added.

In Paris, King Hussein of Jordan called yesterday for a summit of Arab states to formulate a common policy on Soviet Jewish immigration.

Following a meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand at the Elysee Palace, the King said such a summit could "arrive at a common policy and create a reciprocal climate of confidence."

But Hussein admitted that the long preparation such a session would require made it possible for the meeting to be held in the immediate future.

The King and other Arab leaders are concerned about new limits on immigration by Soviet Jews recently imposed by the United States.

US Jews intend to raise \$420 million this year for "Operation Exodus" to help settle Soviet Jews in Israel, fund-raisers announced in Washington.

The money will be used to transport immigrants from the Soviet Union, to refurbish absorption centres in Israel. (See Page 8)

Kuwaiti tanker fire extinguished

DUBAI, March 6. (Agencies): Firefighters today put out a blaze raging for 13 days aboard the Kuwaiti-owned, oil products tanker Sud City, the tanker's owners said.

Capeape Shipping Inc., the owners in the United States of the 69,991-tonne tanker, said the fire was put out as the tanker lay 100 miles off the emirate of Fujairah, in the Arabian Sea.

The fire started on Feb 22 off Dubai. The ship was

heading towards the Strait of Hormuz, exit from the Gulf, with its cargo of refined oil products.

The statement said the tanker would be left to cool for 24 hours, then be towed to another position to offload the remaining cargo to another ship.

The owners said 80 per cent of the tanker's gas oil cargo and 60 per cent of the naphtha cargo were intact.

Two of the 25-member American crew were killed.

INTERNATIONAL



Rights

Drivers of Jakarta's rickshaws stand on their rights. Their vehicles, soon to be taken from them and dumped in Jakarta bay by a government that wants to clean up the congested city, provide cheap standing room from which to view a popular football match. (Reuters wirephoto)

15,000 Indian troops left in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, March 6, (AP): Less than 15,000 Indian peacekeeping troops remain in north-eastern Sri Lanka with the withdrawal of 5,200 troops during the past two weeks, officials said yesterday.

Sri Lankan military officials said during the past week alone 2,658 Indian soldiers boarded ships in the northern Jaffna peninsula for India.

The latest withdrawals left less than 15,000 troops on the island from the 40,000 who arrived over two years, said the officials who cannot be identified under briefing rules.

An official of the Indian High Commission or embassy said the rest of the troops would leave Sri Lanka by March 31, by when both countries have agreed to complete the withdrawal.

Soviets worried over Li Peng trip

BEIJING, March 6, (UPI): The Soviet Union is concerned that a planned trip to Moscow by Chinese Premier Li Peng could be marred by embarrassing demonstrations by opposition groups, possibly straining recently restored Sino-Soviet relations, East bloc sources say.

Soviet authorities "want to be very careful" to avoid protests, the sources said, noting the trip is crucial for both the Soviet Union and Li, the least popular Chinese leader.

Li's trip comes as the Chinese leadership, isolated further by the recent liberalisations in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, is maintaining its economic and governmental ties with Moscow, but is issuing sharp internal criticism of Gorbachev.

Especially troubling was Gorbachev's move to relinquish the Communist Party's monopoly on power.

Shortly after the Soviet plenum in early February, China's Communist Party issued a document, now filtering down to lower-level party members, accusing Gorbachev of "changing the shape of the greatest socialist nation," Chinese sources said.

"It said Gorbachev has given up the leading role of the Communist Party and the dictatorship of the proletariat, and is no longer following the socialist path," said a party member with access to the document.

"China thinks the Soviets are going down the revisionist road," he said.

The document urged people to write internal article criticising Gorbachev — not for the public state press — and said outward relations will continue.

WB doubles loans for poor's education

\$1.5b annual increase plan

JOMTIEN, Thailand, March 6, (Agencies): The World Bank, often accused by Third World countries of forcing them to divert funds from education, today pledged to double its lending for teaching projects in developing nations.

But delegates to an international conference on education said the money won't help unless something is done about the Third World debt crisis.

World Bank president Barber Conable told the 155-nation World Conference on Education that the bank will increase funding over the next three years to an annual level of \$1.5 billion. Current funding is just under \$900 million a year, bank officials said.

Some of the 1,200 conference delegates said that unless the bank and other lending institutions abandon current debt repayment conditions, there is little hope for poor nations to find the money to develop education programmes.

"Education for all requires the redirection of funds absorbed by debt," said a statement that 21

non-government organisations submitted to the conference today, its second day.

Poor nations now pay \$43 billion annually to service debts, and "\$1.5 billion coming in from the World Bank means nothing when lending institutions at the same time demand that \$43 billion go out," said David Bull, general secretary of one of the non-government agencies, the World University Service.

"It is urgent and unavoidable for international development agencies and world powers to resolve the debt crisis," Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi had told the conference yesterday.

"The world stands to lose an entire generation which will have been denied the right to education," he said.

At a news conference today, Conable agreed that debt in some countries was a major obstacle to development, but said it "can't be wished away."

The World Bank, an inter-governmental agency related to the United Nations and the largest single source of funds for

international education, is a main sponsor of the conference at Jomtien, a beach resort near Bangkok.

In announcing the increase in bank funding, Conable said investment in education has doubled in industrialised nations in recent years, but has decreased by a quarter in the developing countries — while their populations have grown rapidly.

The scarcity of educational opportunities has prevented the poor nations from matching the growth rates of the rich nations, Conable said.

"The challenge then is to stop this cycle," he said. "World Bank studies have shown that education contributes to economic growth in developing countries."

"The poor will be liberated from their poverty only when they are supplied with the instrument of their self-fulfillment," he said.

Conable said almost a billion people are illiterate, the vast majority of them in developing countries, although the illiterate population had fallen 17 per cent in the past 30 years.

Japan tests advanced rocket engine

TOKYO, March 6, (AP): Japan moved closer to becoming a formidable competitor in space today with a successful test of an advanced rocket engine, the government said.

The LE-7 engine "burned normally" during a four-second firing test, the National Space Development Agency said. The sophisticated engine is to power the first stage of a Japanese rocket, the H-2, on which Japan has pinned many of its hopes for space exploration.

The current mainstay of the Japanese space programme the H-1 rocket, can lift only 550 kilograms (1,210 pounds) into geostationary

orbit, making it incapable of launching large communications satellite.

The LE-7 engine, powered by liquid hydrogen and oxygen, uses a propulsion system similar to that of the US space shuttle.

Today's success followed a string of problems that technicians attributed to extremely high stresses in the engine.

The H-2 is scheduled to be launched in March 1992 with a capability that will match the two-tonne geostationary payload capabilities of US, Soviet and European rockets.

Seoul to buy enriched uranium from Soviets

SEOUL, March 6, (AP): A government committee yesterday approved a plan by South Korea's state utility to import 40 tons of enriched uranium a year from the Soviet Union to fuel nuclear power plants.

The decision cleared the way for South Korea and the Soviet Union, which have no diplomatic relations, to begin co-operation in commercial nuclear power generation.

Officials of the committee charged with co-ordinating South Korea's overall policy toward socialist nations said the decision would enable Korea Electric Power Corp. to diversify its sources of uranium. It now buys uranium mostly from Australia and Canada and has it enriched in the United States.

The officials also said South Korea would be allowed to make about 30 per cent of its goods in consumer electronic products such as television sets and computers.

Details of the deal have yet to be worked out, but officials said the proposed purchases, over 10 years starting this year, would be at a price much lower than the \$1,060 a ton South Korea pays for the 140 tons of enriched uranium now imported each year.

One Kepco official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said

the import price of the Soviet uranium would be between \$600 and \$700 a ton. The current spot market price is \$530 a ton, he said.

South Korea's current uranium purchases are covered under three separate contracts that remain effective until 1995, 1996 and 2015.

The deal would not affect South Korea's current contracts with the United States and France, the officials said. They said the Soviet uranium would be mainly for stockpiles for nuclear power plants to be built after 1995.

South Korea now has nine nuclear power plants in operation and two under construction, due to start operation in 1995 and 1996. It plans to build three more plants by 1998.

South Korea is the world's 10th largest nuclear power generator, and obtains nearly 50 per cent of its electricity from nuclear plants.

Despite the lack of diplomatic relations, the Soviet Union and South Korea have expanded economic and other non-political links in recent years. Their two-way trade totalled \$600 million US last year and is expected to reach \$1 billion this year.

Banned Nepal parties

Pledge for democracy

KATHMANDU, March 6, (Reuters): Nepal's banned political parties, fighting for multi-party democracy, today defied a crackdown on dissent by announcing a two-week programme of protests including another general strike.

In a separate development, businessmen and writers have joined a chorus of criticism of the government over its handling of demonstrations demanding political change. Many doctors, lawyers and university teachers in the capital Kathmandu support opposition demands.

The Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), grouping the liberal Nepali Congress Party with communist factions, today published a programme for renewed protests starting from Friday.

"Until and unless the multi-party system is restored, our peaceful agitation will continue," communist spokesman Radhakrishna Mainali said.

Political parties were banned in 1960 in the Himalayan kingdom. There is now a partyless system of elected councils.

The MRD said it planned a strike on March 14. Last Friday, a general strike virtually shut down Kathmandu.

At least 12 people died when demonstrators defied riot police in the first three days of the campaign for political change, launched on Feb. 18.

Police arrested 25 others in a crackdown on the booming business of importing women from South America and Southeast Asia to work as prostitutes in Japan, officials said yesterday.

Police raided the theatre Rest in Tokyo's Kabukicho red light district Sunday night and arrested four Colombians, one Filipino, one Japanese and two of undetermined nationality on charges of violating the anti-prostitution law and immigration laws, a Tokyo metropolitan police spokesman said.

Police also detained for questioning 25 women from Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Thailand and Japan, the spokesman said.

Experts estimate as many as 100,000 foreign women are working in Japan's massive sex industry, including many who were "sold" to nightclub

owners and are forced to earn back their freedom through prostitution.

Police said they could not confirm the circumstances of the women arrested Sunday.

Two women arrested, a Japanese and Filipino, were described as managers and face up to 2 years in jail or fines of up to \$330, the police spokesman said. The others face deportation, he said.

Foreign prostitutes have been drawn to Japan in increasing numbers because of Japan's growing wealth, but many find the conditions to be unbearable.

Last year four Filipino women charged in a civil suit they had been held prisoner in a wooden cage inside a nightclub and taken out only to have sex with the customers.

The four eventually escaped with the help of a sympathetic customer and returned to the Philippines.

Police have been accused of turning a blind eye to foreign prostitution, which is closely linked to Japan's Yakuza, or mafia.

The prostitutes are brought to Japan by brokers who advertise jobs in Japan with airfare and other expenses paid.

When the women arrive, they often say they were surprised to learn they would be working as prostitutes, said Mizuno Matsuda, the director of Tokyo Asian women's shelter, one of 30 crisis centres established to help the women.

Matsuda said police usually ignore the situation or when they cannot ignore it, respond by deporting the women.



Demonstration

Supporters and protesters demonstrate near the supreme court building, where senators Juan Ponce Enrile, detained in a military camp on rebellion charges, attended a hearing on his plea to be freed on bail. The court ruled in favour of a bail. (Reuters wirephoto)

Najib foils rebel backed coup bid

(Continued from Page 1)

The official, who was in contact with Kabul at about 1400 GMT (6.30 pm Kabul time), said there had been some bombing around the presidential palace. He has no word on any casualties.

Western diplomats in Islamabad said they heard of aerial bombardments by the Afghan Air Force, tank movements around the Soviet embassy and fighting around the presidential palace. They did not know if the tanks were defending the embassy or attacking it.

The diplomats, speaking on condition of not being identified, said they received their information from numerous sources.

Adnan Watanjar, the Iranian interior minister, picked today to succeed Tanai, read messages on behalf of Najibullah, urging Afghans to join the military and help capture Tanai "dead or alive."

He also called for Tanai's followers to surrender. "The integrity, sovereignty and independence of Afghanistan will be protected," Watanjar said. "We are alert."

Hekmatyar said mujahedeen were broadcasting appeals on the Afghan army's military frequency urging soldiers to help oust Najib's government.

"Now is the time for all Afghan people to join hands, topple this regime and finish the fighting," Hekmatyar told the news conference. "We will never accept anything short of an Islamic government. The Kabul regime will be finished."

Hekmatyar also said Tanai was still in Kabul, leading his forces. He was believed to be supporting the effort to overthrow the government despite Tanai's known hardline position against any peace concessions to the rebels.

In addition, Najib's government has continually characterised Hekmatyar as the main enemy and might be trying to discredit Tanai by linking him to the fundamentalist leader.

Details about the coup attempt were sketchy. International operators in Moscow said telephone lines to Kabul were damaged and calls would be difficult to place.

Radio Kabul said Tanai escaped and security forces were searching for him and his followers.

Both Tanai and Watanjar were leaders in the 1978 coup that toppled the Marxist government and sparked the civil war against the Muslim warriors.

Najib has been president of Afghanistan since 1986 and has made various offers to the rebels to try to end the civil war.

Tanai opposes the peace overtures and was implicated in reported coup attempts in July and December but apparently never charged.

On Monday, 124 Afghans including senior army officers went to Hail in Saudi Arabia to demand the Soviet Union to pull out of Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union sent the Red Army into Afghanistan in 1979 to prop up the communist government. The last of the 110,000 Soviet troops were pulled out of Afghanistan on Feb 15, 1989, but the Kremlin continues to pump billions of dollars in arms to support the Afghan Army.

Rebel attacks intensified after the pullout and some observers predicted Najib's days were numbered, but the rebels were unable to secure major cities. Government troops repelled attacks on "sach" cities like Jalalabad and Kandahar.

Tanai, thought to be in his 40s, became a defence minister sometime in 1988. As often happens in Afghanistan, his appointment apparently was not formally announced. By late 1988, he was being referred to in Kabul as the defence minister. When Najib reshuffled his cabinet in February 1989 after the Soviet withdrawal, Tanai remained defence minister.

He reportedly made contact recently with the Muslim rebels, including Hekmatyar.

Mujahedeen in the Pakistan frontier city of Peshawar said today they probably would help Tanai evade Afghan security troops if he asked for their assistance.

In New Delhi, Ahmad Sarwar, Afghanistan's ambassador to India, said earlier today he had no information of a coup attempt. His wife is the sister of Najib's wife.

NZ-China ties: New Zealand has taken a step towards resuming normal relations with China which were disrupted after the massacre in Tiananmen Square last June, Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Mike Moore said on Tuesday.

Moore, who met a Chinese wool delegation led by Textile and Industry Vice Minister Wang Zengjing on Monday, said a New Zealand-China joint trade commission would visit Beijing on March 30.

"I'd expect things to be normalised so long as there isn't a return to what was happening months ago," Moore told Radio New Zealand.

China was New Zealand's biggest customer for wool until tougher exchange controls were imposed by Beijing last year, (Reuters)

Catch of the day...

XT Prints on Rib Collar Blouse
KED. 3.750

Culotte Skirt
KED. 6.500

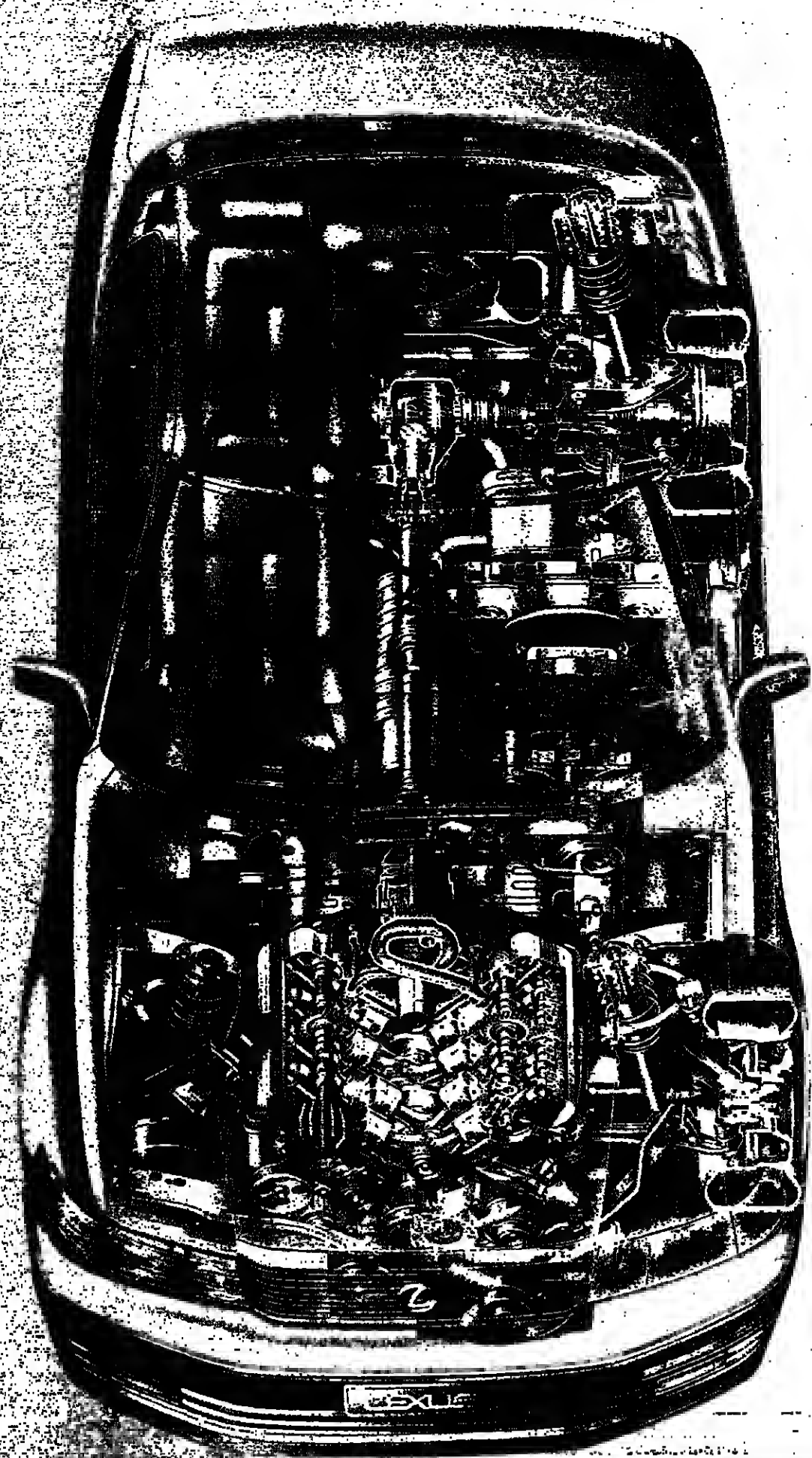
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INTERNATIONAL

Tug of love mom in NZ to press fight

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, March 6, (AP): Dr Jean Elizabeth Morgan arrived today from the United States to press her fight for sole custody of her daughter, whom she sent abroad two years ago to protect her from alleged molestation by her father.

Morgan spent 25 months in prison for refusing to reveal the whereabouts of her daughter, Hilary Forreth, to her father, from whom she is divorced. Morgan became the centre of a heated controversy over parental rights.

Although Morgan has not seen 7-year-old Hilary for more than two years, she said through her New Zealand attorney that would not reunite immediately with Hilary, who is in Christchurch.

Instead, solicitor Lyn Stevens said she will spend a "few days" meeting with local attorneys and with Hilary's lawyer.

The 42-year-old surgeon, who has been outspoken throughout her three-year custody battle, refused to speak to journalists after her arrival at Auckland International Airport.

Carrying only a handbag after her flight from Los Angeles, she slipped through a side exit and was ushered into a waiting car. She kept her head bowed, avoiding waiting cameras.

Stevens told the AP that Dr Morgan would not meet the media during her visit. He said he did not know when she will go to Christchurch, or how long she would stay.

Morgan reportedly has spoken only once to her daughter by telephone since she was jailed.

Stevens added that Morgan had high regard for the New Zealand family court process.

"She is acutely conscious of the strong tradition in New Zealand of keeping matters before the family court private and confidential," Stevens said. "Accordingly, she requests that all media respect the privacy of herself, her family and Hilary."

"She is very pleased that in New Zealand the best interests and welfare of Hilary are regarded as the paramount consideration," her lawyer said.

No date has been set for a hearing.

New leaders take over Medellin drug cartel

BOGOTA, March 6, (Agencies): A "new leadership" that claims to have renounced the violence of the past has taken the helm of the world's largest drug syndicate and called a "state of alert" because of a continued government crackdown, a Bogota newspaper reported.

The powerful Medellin cartel, in a letter answering charges that the traffickers recently assassinated several leftist leaders, announced the bloody tactics of the past had "passed away to form part of one of the chapters in the history of Colombia."

"The new leadership of our organisation energetically rejects militarism, torture and disappearances," said the letter, sent Saturday to the president of the leftist Patriotic Union and quoted extensively in Bogota's El Tiempo newspaper.

The cartel, however, also announced a "state of alert" in response to continued arrests of drug suspects and the government's policy of extraditing Colombians to face drug charges in the United States.

Two suspected traffickers wanted in the United States were arrested last week, bringing to 14 the number of Colombians in high security cells awaiting extradition. Since the government resurrected the policy last August to battle the warring cartels, Colombia has sent 14 of its citizens north.

The traffickers claimed extradition was "against the will of our people, the great majority of Congress, the presidential candidates and against the wishes of leftist leaders."

The cartel letter did not identify the "new leadership", though security reports indicate the Medellin cartel is still led by fugitive Pablo Escobar, reportedly moving every six hours and protected by a small handful of loyal bodyguards to evade patrols hunting for him.

The cartel's call for peace followed a bloody past. Colombia's drug lords have claimed responsibility in recent years for assassinations of hundreds of judges, law enforcement officers, government figures, journalists, leftist leaders and their sympathisers, as well as last year's four-month-long cartel bombing spree that killed some 200 people.

Last January the drug violence ended and the cartel went on a peace offensive shortly after Jose "The Mexican" Rodriguez Gacha, considered the most violent drug czar, was cut down by police in northern Colombia in mid-December.

Rodriguez Gacha was the military chief of the Medellin syndicate, and police say he was directly responsible for planning rural massacres of leftist sympathisers and some of the cartel's bloodiest bomb attacks last year.

Savimbi injury denied

WASHINGTON, March 6, (Reuters): The United States and an Angolan rebel spokesman yesterday denied reports that government troops had captured a strategic rebel-held town.

Earlier, reports quoted the rebel national Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) as admitting it had lost control of the town of Mavinga.

Unita leader Jonas Savimbi was quoted as saying: "I am ready to sign a ceasefire if government forces withdraw from their previous positions. Government forces hold Mavinga."

A US State Department statement said: "There has been no significant change from the situation last week. According to our information, control of Mavinga is still contested."

Marcos Samodina, a Unita spokesman in Washington, said the Savimbi statement had been distorted by a government radio station. He said Savimbi had actually said: "Luanda says that government forces hold Mavinga. This is false."

He said government forces were 20 km (12 miles) from Mavinga.

War if army is replaced: Ortega

Sandinistas must stay

MANAGUA, March 6, (Reuters): Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega warned yesterday of "national war" if the new government replaced the Sandinista army with Contra rebels or members of ousted dictator Anastasio Somoza's national guard.

Speaking to a group of pro-Sandinista teachers and students, Ortega said president-elect Violeta Chamorro must preserve the leftist Sandinista Army and Interior Ministry security forces or suffer grave consequences.

The Sandinista armed forces "cannot be replaced by Contras or Somoza's guard because this would be the signal for a national war against the mercenaries and the Somocistas," Ortega said to cheers from the crowd.

Ortega, however, prefaced his remarks by saying he was prepared to co-operate to make the transition to the Chamorro government peaceful. "The best thing would be to work in a spirit of harmony, of national unity so that peace and the end to the war becomes a reality," he said.

Ortega's tough statements echoed those made by Trade and Industry Minister Luis Carrion, who warned in yesterday's edition of the official Barricada newspaper that there would be "civil war, instability and chaos" if the new pro-American government attempted to break up the Sandinista army and police.

The statements by the Sandinista leaders appeared to be part of efforts by the leadership to satisfy hardline militants with tough talks while showing flexibility in negotiations on a transfer of power.

Ortega, diplomats said, led the way with a speech two days after the elections when he made disbanding the Contra rebels a condition for handing over power.

A few hours later, Chamorro, who soundly defeated Ortega in the February 25 vote, made the same demand. There was speculation the two had agreed on this in private talks.

Similarly, the Sandinistas and the opposition already appear heading towards agreement on the demand of Ortega and Carrion. An editorial in Chamorro's newspaper La Prensa on Sunday called for the Sandinista Army to remain as the country's sole armed force.

Chamorro has said she will cut the army and police force, now numbering about 100,000.



Chamorro during an interview in her home in Managua. She said the Contras would not be given any jobs in either her government or the Nicaraguan Army. (Reuters wirephoto)

Asked in an interview with Reuters if the rebels could expect any posts in government or army, Chamorro said: "I don't think so. We have to cut down all of that."

Her comments are certain to disappoint the Contras who are seeking part of the credit for the defeat of the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). The rebels say free elections would never have been held without their military pressure.

Chamorro said her hope, and that of the Nicaraguan people, was for a peaceful handover of the government on April 25. "We Nicaraguans all want

peace and reconciliation, to forgive each other and begin a new government," she said, adding that she would soon announce her cabinet.

Chamorro joined Ortega last week in calling for the immediate disbanding of some 12,000 Honduran-based Contras who have waged an eight-year war against the Sandinista government.

She said yesterday she would like the rebels to disband before April 25, when her government is to take office.

The Contras, who have long resisted laying down their arms, have said they want to discuss the issue with Chamorro.

SA bid to kill Mandela lawyer

PRETORIA, March 6, (Agencies): A shadowy South African military unit hatched plots to assassinate leading anti-apartheid activists, it was learned.

On the first day of hearings into the underground Civil Co-operation Bureau (CCB), military officials admitted that the organisation had tried to deliver a bomb to the home of Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

But they denied knowledge of plots to kill two prominent political activists, Namibian lawyer Anton Lubowski and university lecturer David Webster, whose deaths remain unresolved.

Earlier yesterday, South African police announced they arrested the bureau's commanding officer, Colonel Joe Verster, last Friday and were holding him under security laws which allow indefinite detention without trial.

At the hearing of the one-man independent judicial panel, called the Harms Commission, a lawyer charged the bureau tried to kill Dullah Omar, black nationalist Mandela's lawyer, by substituting his heart pills with tablets that would kill him.

Tim McNally accused General Eddie Webb, described as the bureau's chairman, of being involved in the plot and charged the bureau was responsible for last year's murders of Webster and Lubowski and harassing leading anti-government activists.

The Harms Commission is probing 71 unresolved cases of politically-motivated violence against anti-apartheid activists, alleged to have been committed by the bureau.

Defence Minister Magnus Malan is under growing pressure to resign over allegations, which he has denied, that the assassination unit fell under his direct chain of command.



A bottle store is looted and set alight in the township of Mdantsane in the South African homeland of Ciskei during the aftermath of the bloodless coup. (Reuters wirephoto)

20 dead, 300 injured in Ciskei

An orgy of arson

BISHO, South Africa, March 6, (Reuters): Twenty people were killed and 300 injured in an orgy of arson and looting following a military coup in the South African tribal homeland of Ciskei, hospital workers said today.

Doctors and nurses at the Cecilia Makwane hospital near the Ciskei capital of Bisho said most of the dead and injured fell victim to drunken mobs that rampaged through the streets setting fire to hotels and factories and looting shops.

South Africa said today the new rulers of its Ciskei tribal homeland had declared a state of emergency to help quell lawlessness.

"It has been recently announced that an emergency has been declared in Ciskei," Foreign Minister P. W. Botha told a parliamentary debate on Sunday's coup by Ciskei Army officers.

Four people were burned to death when they were trapped in a lift in a hotel that was set ablaze. Hospital workers said many of the dead and injured had suffered gunshot and stab wounds.

Others had been burned in the industrial suburb of Mdantsane, where mobs looted liquor stores and then smashed and firebombed virtually every factory and shop.

"Drink was a big factor," said one hospital worker who asked not to be named. "We are treating children as young as 12 for alcohol poisoning."

Doctors and nurses at the hospital were still treating the injured in a blood-spattered casualty ward early today.

Soldiers and police have not intervened to halt the violence, which erupted soon after the

regime of Ciskei President Lennox Sebe was toppled in a military takeover on Sunday.

South African troops who have entered Ciskei at the request of the new military rulers to guard businesses and government offices were ignoring residential areas, where unrest and private score-settling still flared sporadically, residents said.

"The Sebe regime is over, but it is not going to help much because our parents have no jobs anymore," said a youth in battered Mdantsane township, home for half a million people.

The Ciskei coup is the most dramatic of recent violent upheavals in South Africa's 10 tribal homelands, key pillars of apartheid that were created under former Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd's "grand apartheid" vision of separate development.

"Verwoerd's monster is breaking out of its bonds, and there is very little Pretoria can do about it," said Business Day.

"Ciskei is destined to be reincorporated into South Africa," wrote Johannesburg Star columnist Patrick Laurence. "The collapse of these states is imminent."

The new ruling four-man military council says it wants ultimately to incorporate Ciskei into South Africa in line with the anti-apartheid policy of the African National Congress (ANC), the main organisation fighting white rule.

But it said lawlessness was its main immediate priority and admitted the scale of the destruction, estimated unofficially as well over 10 million rand (\$4 million) worth, had been a surprise.



A Mdantsane township resident carries away a television set which he stole. (Reuters wirephoto)

The ANC welcomed the overthrow of Sebe, one of the most repressive homeland leaders, but national executive committee member Aziz Pahad said at the group's Zimbabwe offices that the looting and violence began immediately.

South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha appeared on television last evening to "please desist from plundering."

He said troops had gone in to Ciskei partly to stop looting from spilling over into South Africa proper. "It is our responsibility to do damage done now is damage done to all of us."

Flag burning law

Unconstitutional

WASHINGTON, March 6, (AP): A law passed by Congress last year that made it a federal crime to burn the American flag was held unconstitutional yesterday for the second time in less than a month.

US district judge June Green dismissed charges against three defendants accused of violating the statute, saying the law violated the constitution's first amendment, which protects free speech.

The Justice Department has said it would ask the supreme court to review the Feb 21 ruling of a federal judge in Seattle who struck down the law on the same ground. The court has already ruled that a Texas law banning flag burning was unconstitutional.

America

Boycott endorsement: The US Roman Catholic bishops' top spokesman on abortion Monday endorsed a boycott of environmental groups that support changes in US population assistance and birth control policies.

"Such proposals ... do not deserve the support of anyone who wishes to foster respect for all fragile life on our planet, which includes the vulnerable life of the unborn child," said Richard Doerflinger, associate director for policy development of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' secretariat for pro-life activities. (UPI)

Quebec issue again: Most Quebecers now want independence for the province, according to

a poll that reflects deteriorating relations between French and English Canadians.

The poll result indicates a reversal in the provincial majority's long-held view that Quebec is better off within Canada and also springs from a new-found confidence among Quebecers that their province could succeed on its own. (Reuters)

Snowiest town awaits spring: Residents of the nation's snowiest town Valdez Alaska are proud of how they've shovelled, burrowed and bulldozed through this winter's record snowfall of more than 40 feet (12.2 metres).

But after more than three months of steady snow, even the most devoted fans of winter start planning for spring.

"I don't think it's ever going to melt," airplane scheduler Nettle Pike said recently while waiting out yet another storm at the Valdez airport. "This is the new ice age." (AP)

Coal barges hit bridge: Twenty-nine coal barges broke loose and three of them sank after hitting the older of the two greater New Orleans bridge twin spans over the Mississippi River.

"Twenty-six are floating free and being rounded up by five or more tugs," coast guard Lt Bob Canon said Monday.

He said the bridge and river remained open. Damage to the bridge apparently was confined to a system designed to keep boats away from the bridge, he said. (AP)

Nigerian range war, 11 dead: A range war has erupted in northern Nigeria for the second time in four months, claiming 11 lives, Lagos newspapers reported Tuesday.

The newspapers said Fulani cattle herders clashed with Hausa farmers in Sokoto state last week.



Buthelezi returns

Kwazulu Chief Minister Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi greets a crowd of well-wishers at Jan Smuts airport as he arrives back from a trip during which he met US President George Bush and British Premier Margaret Thatcher. (Reuters wirephoto)

and. The farmers accuse the herdsmen of letting their cattle graze on the farmers' crops. (AP)

Baker plans trip to Namibia: Secretary of State James Baker will represent the United States at Namibian independence celebrations on March 21 on a trip that could also take him to South Africa, officials said on Monday.

A State Department announcement about the Namibia trip did not say when Baker would leave Washington or whether he would visit other African countries but spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said other stops on the trip could be added later. (Reuters)

30th anniversary

Cubans celebrate the 30th anniversary of the revolutionary slogan, "Our country or death. We will win," which President Fidel Castro coined in an economical speech March 5, 1960.

Some 200 workers, housewives and children waving Cuban flags and chanting revolutionary slogans laid siege on Monday to a house where prominent human rights activists were meeting.

Last week Cuba accused the United States of meddling in its human rights record, saying it was an internal affair. On Monday, the crowd yelled the Cuban revolutionary slogan - "Our country or death. We will win."

After they surrounded the bungalow, in the Altahabane suburb of Havana, nobody could enter or leave.

Trapped inside were Sebastian Arcos, Vice President of the Cuban Committee for Human Rights, his brother Gustavo Arcos, Samuel Martinez Lara, executive secretary of the Cuban human rights party and other leading human rights activists.

Martinez told Reuters by telephone from inside the house that the crowd was transported to the area in lorries.

Martinez said that he and his companions had locked themselves in one room after the demonstrators threw stones and broke down a door.

The crowd seemed to make no attempt to enter the house but prevented foreign journalists from speaking to the occupants.

Empty lorries were parked along a nearby street.

Abidjan defends crackdown on protests

ABIDJAN, March 6, (AP): President Felix Houphouet-Boigny defended yesterday the brutal repression of student protests and suggested multinational companies were trying to destabilise Africa to procure the lowest possible price for its raw materials.

The 84-year-old Ivorian leader, speaking at his first news conference since 1985, denied protesters' claims he has siphoned millions of dollars from state coffers.

"If you think I have that kind of money, do you think I would leave my people in that situation?" He told a reporter who asked whether he would use his

"immense fortune" to help the country through its worst economic crisis.

Students were joined by hundreds of government and other workers who left their offices to protest in Abidjan on Friday, chanting: "Houphouet: Thief. Houphouet corrupt."

Abidjan was tense but quiet yesterday with dozens of armed soldiers deployed. Red-bellied presidential guards hunkered off the presidential office in the city centre and truckloads of troops stood guard at a bridge over the lagoon that separated downtown Abidjan from the densely populated Treichville district.

Amnesty International, the

London-based human rights movement, has condemned "several beatings" by soldiers and police who have fired tear-gas and stun grenades to halt many peaceful demonstrations.

"If I have to choose between disorder and injustice I will choose injustice because there will be time to redress that," Houphouet-Boigny said.

The president repeated his opposition to protesters' demands for a multiparty democracy, saying parties in Africa tend to be drawn up on tribal lines, promoting ethnic rivalry and endangering national unity.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

WICHITA, Kansas: Gretchen Polhemus, Miss USA 1989, has some advice for her newly crowned successor. Get a lawyer.

Polhemus said in an interview published Sunday she was required to work 12-hour days during her reign, had not received all her prizes and was denied permission to visit her sick grandmother.

Miss Polhemus told the Wichita Eagle she considered quitting at one point.

The new Miss USA, Carol Gist, 26, of Michigan, was crowned Friday at the pageant finals in Wichita.

"I told her to get an attorney. There's a lot of things in that contract that are unclear," Miss Polhemus said.

Pageant spokeswoman Sara Meza said pageant officials renegotiated Miss Polhemus' contract to give her more days off after she complained.

Ms Meza said the \$1,300 in wardrobe expense money, \$3,000 worth of airline tickets and some camera equipment will be delivered in two weeks. She said Miss Polhemus would have gotten the prizes even without the new agreement.

Miss Polhemus also said she was not allowed to visit her sick grandmother in Texas, as preparations were under way for this year's pageant. The grandmother has suffered three strokes, she said.



Liz Ann announces the launch of Art Against Aids. (Reuter wirephoto)

SEATTLE, Washington: Shirley Maclaine burst her knee while dancing the cancan and missed four weekend performances.

Dan Bean, president of Entertainment Consultants, said the injury occurred Friday night about 20 minutes before the end of the revue, "Out There Tonight."

Maclaine finished her performance at the Paramount Theatre, but four shows Saturday and Sunday were cancelled. (AP)



Zappa kin attend premiere

Moon Unit and Dweezil Zappa attend the New York premiere of 'Joe Versus the Volcano,' a romantic comedy adventure film starring Tom Hanks and Leg Ryan at the Coronet Theatre on March 5 in New York. (Reuter wirephoto)

WASHINGTON: The Artists Against Aids fund-raising effort came to Washington on Monday, led by Elizabeth Taylor and artist Robert Rauschenberg.

The campaign is hoping to raise \$1 million in Washington. Earlier reports in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco have brought in \$5 million so far, Miss Taylor said.

"The world is looking to the United States both to find a medical solution... and to find a compassionate and caring response to those who are already afflicted," she said.

"Artists have to be the conscience of the country," said Rauschenberg, who announced the donation of a painting to help raise money.

Rauschenberg has already donated art work worth \$500,000, said Patricia M. Klags, a leader in the local effort. (AP)

NEW YORK: You do not have to be Irish to make the list of top 100 Irish-Americans in Irish America magazine. But it helps.

Mayor David Dinkins, who is black, made the list in the magazine's March issue. Dinkins, who took office in January, was named for his work on behalf of illegal Irish immigrants in the city.

"We believe it is important to recognize the work of those who contribute to Irish issues, even those who are not Irish," magazine editor Sean O'Meara said.

Others on the list include the late president John F. Kennedy, Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, CBS news president David Burke and talk-show hosts Phil Donahue and Regis Philbin.

Filmmaker Michael Moore, authors Tom Clancy, Mary Higgins Clark and speechwriter Peggy Noonan were among those named.

FARMINGTON, Connecticut: Sixteen tennis enthusiasts had a formidable — and expensive — opponent over the weekend.

Each paid \$1,000 for the privilege of playing Ivan Lendl, the No. 1 player in the world. Proceeds went to the Fideles Guide Dog Foundation of Bloomfield, Connecticut, which trains dogs for the blind.

Lenny Landry of West Hartford said she expected to face the Lendl she had seen on television — a man whose steely on-court style has chilled opponents. But the Lendl she met Saturday at the Farmington Farms Racquet Club was charming and offered friendly tips, perhaps because playing for charity is recreation for Lendl, not work.

Saturday's event netted more than \$17,000 for Fideles, said Jaffe Angel, spokeswoman for the foundation. (AP)

Theologians surprised at exorcism practices

NEW YORK, March 6, (AP): Theologians have expressed surprise about Cardinal John O'Connor's disclosure that the rare rite of exorcism has been performed twice in New York in a year.

But other ceremonies dealing with evil spirits, including a baptismal prayer, are more common in the Roman Catholic church.

O'Connor mentioned the exorcisms during a sermon Sunday and to reporters afterward. He said rock music spiked with satanic lyrics created an atmosphere conducive to devil-worship and demonic possession.

The cardinal said the exorcisms were approved by the archdiocese's vicar-general and appeared to be successful, but gave no other details. He also said the

novel, "The Exorcist," is a "gruesomely authentic" portrayal of demonic possession.

According to a story published Dec 12 in the San Francisco Chronicle, Pope John Paul II recently increased the number of exorcists in Rome and in Turin, where there are a reported 40,000 devil worshippers.

Last week, police in the state of Indiana asked an unidentified priest to pray and sprinkle holy water in a house after they saw a radio, a vase and other objects inexplicably move. They had been called to investigate a possible burglary after the resident came home and found smashed dishes, windows, a lamp and eggs. A 14-year-old relative who had been involved in there was believed to have been involved in devil worship, authorities said.

The Rev. Simon Harak, a theology professor at Fairfield University, a Jesuit school, said that exorcism, recognised in the church's book of rituals, is performed for people under the highest form of attack by an evil spirit — people "who are no longer in charge of their own will."

Exorcisms are confidential; no figures are kept on the number performed in the United States, said Bill Ryan, spokesman for the US Catholic Conference in Washington, DC.

Although channeling — the phenomenon of spirits speaking through humans — has similarities to demonic possession, the spirits that emerge in channeling, however, are supposed to be good, not evil, according to the Rev. James T. Burchaell, theology professor at Notre Dame University, another Roman Cath-

olic school.

Exorcism existed before the time of Christ, but is rare in modern times, and both Burchaell and Harak said they were surprised there would have been two exorcisms in a year in New York. Harak noted the rite may gain prevalence in times or places of satanic worship.

"In the Gospels, there's quite a bit of reference to Jesus not only healing people of diseases but freeing them from diabolical possession," Burchaell said yesterday.

"Ever since then, there have been outbreaks of similar behaviour," he said. "It was found that when very holy priests were sent to pray for and about these very troubled people, there would be an increase in the behaviour, then eventually a complete liberation from it."

Medical file

Geneva to introduce sperm bank: A recent innovation at the fertility clinic of the Geneva Cantonal Hospital is the introduction of a sperm bank, according to a publication by the University of Geneva.

Uni News, published on behalf of the Academic Council of the University of Geneva, noted that until now the sperm had been provided to the clinic by a private organisation.

It observed that with more and more sterile couples desiring children, the lack of sperm donors is becoming increasingly apparent.

Dr Blaise Bourrit, of the Institute of Bioanalytical Medicine, said that there are never enough donors and public appeal does not exactly produce a male stampede to the bank, the document said.

Moreover, the idea of donating sperm for childless couples is not very well received even among medical students. Bourrit indicated that when he once made an appeal for donors in his class, the students responded with "little more than embarrassed grins."

Professor Aldo Campana, head of the fertility clinic, explains that the routine carried out to ensure that sperm is of good quality is time-consuming and expensive.

Donors must visit the clinic at least six times to undergo examinations and analysis ensuring that they are in a good state of health and are free from Aids, hepatitis, etc. Consequently, this increases the difficulty in finding donors. (Kuna)

Reduce fat, cholesterol in diet: A US government-endorsed report recommends an ambitious effort by food companies, physicians and individuals to improve health by reducing fat and cholesterol in the national diet. The result, says the national cholesterol education programme would be a 20 per cent reduction in coronary heart disease.

Heart disease is the nation's No. 1 killer disease, claiming the lives of about 500,000 Americans each year. It is associated with high levels of cholesterol in the blood, which clogs arteries. (AP)

Aids-related lawsuit: The US government is refusing to send its Aids researchers into court to shed light on allegations that drug companies filed to move swiftly enough to prevent their blood products from transmitting the virus to children with haemophilia.

The Centre for Disease Control contends Aids researchers' time is better spent in the laboratory. Lawyers for families of the Aids victims say they believe both justice and science can be served by having the experts testify. The government has won the first legal skirmishes, most recently a ruling by a federal judge in Atlanta that CDC experts can't be forced to testify in Aids-related lawsuits. (AP)

12 Aids cases in Malaysia: Twelve cases of Aids have been discovered in Malaysia since the first reported case in December 1986, according to Deputy Health Minister Senator Farid Ariffin.

Farid said eight of the 12 victims had died. He also said 250 carriers of the Aids virus have been detected in the last three years.

Aids — acquired immune deficiency syndrome — attacks the body's immune system, leaving victims susceptible to a variety of infections and cancers. (AP)

HDTV on consultations: A Texas hospital is starting to use high-definition television for consultations that eventually could link rural residents to specialists at major medical centres, officials announced Monday in Houston.

Although regular television currently is employed for some medical consultations, the programme at Texas Children's Hospital is believed to be the first to use HDTV technology.

HDTV projects a brighter, clearer and more detailed picture, with resolution at least 200 times greater than that of a standard television screen.

The Texas Children's Hospital programme, developed in conjunction with Southwestern Bell Telephone Co., uses a fibre optic cable to transmit images with the quality of wide-screen 35mm movie film.

"The potential exists for this technology to have a tremendous impact on the accessibility of specialty health care, particularly to rural America," said Mark Wallace, executive director of Texas Children's Hospital. (UPI)

Cholesterol tests often inaccurate: Cholesterol tests were highly inaccurate up to one-fourth of the time, and some widely available portable testing machines had unacceptably high error rates even under ideal lab conditions, researchers said in a Chicago report.

Poorly trained operators and improperly set instruments were the primary culprits behind misleading readings, which can cause people to seek unneeded treatment or falsely reassure them they don't need it, the researchers said.

Excess cholesterol in the blood is one of the three main modifiable traits that are linked with increased likelihood of heart disease, the nation's No. 1 killer. The others are high blood pressure and smoking.

In a study in *Journal of the American Medical Association*, all screening results were within an acceptable range of accuracy in only one of four public cholesterol-testing programmes.

In screenings carried out by three cholesterol-testing companies, significant numbers of values strayed from true levels by more than 14.2 per cent, the largest range of error allowed under guidelines of the national cholesterol education programme, researchers said. (AP)

Take Aids off contagious list: The Centres of Disease Control is recommending that Aids be dropped from a list of contagious diseases used to prevent foreigners from entering the United States, a US health official said Wednesday.

The CDC's action is largely symbolic, however, because the list still would include infection with the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, that causes Aids — a restriction that was added by Congress.

The recommendation by the CDC to remove Aids is seen as "signalling Congress that they should take HIV off" the list as well, said the official who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Along with Aids, the CDC is recommending removing from the list all other contagious diseases except infectious tuberculosis, the source said.

After a review of the diseases on the list, including syphilis, gonorrhoea and leprosy, the CDC decided that only tuberculosis posed an important threat because it is highly contagious in its active stage.

Bob Hope's big win at charity raffle

PALM SPRINGS, California, March 6, (AP): Bob Hope was unable to attend a charity event whose host was Jimmy Stewart, so he bought five raffle tickets at \$1,000 apiece to help out. He pulled the grand prize.

"Isn't that amazing? I never win a thing," Hope said from his desert home yesterday a day after learning he had won \$50,000 BMW, a set of luggage and a trip to Germany.

Hope was performing Friday night in Port Arthur, Texas, and couldn't appear at the Beverly Hilton hotel's "an evening of elegance." He bought five of the 100 tickets sold for the benefit for abused and neglected children.

It would seem the globe-trotting entertainer wouldn't need luggage or free trip to Munich. He's made dozens of overseas trips to entertain US troops over Christmas.

"You think you're kidding, don't you? I can use the luggage," Hope said.

UK to ban sludge-dumping at sea

LONDON, March 6, (AP): Britain will ban the discharge of raw sewage into coastal waters and the dumping of sludge at sea, environment secretary Chris Patten said Monday.

Sludge-dumping will end by 1998, Patten said, while the raw sewage discharges will be halted as soon as possible.

John Gummer, minister of agriculture, fisheries and food, also announced yesterday that the burning at sea of chemical waste would end this year. The announcement came just

ahead of the North Sea conference to be held in the Hague starting tomorrow.

The new policy "clearly demonstrates the United Kingdom's commitment to improving the quality of the North Sea and our coastal waters," Patten told a news conference.

Britain's European neighbours have been pressuring it to end the sludge-dumping practice. Britain dumps 10 million tons of sludge at sea each year. As recently as Feb 14, the Brit-

ish government had told the European Economic Community that there was no environmentally acceptable, land-based alternative to dumping industrial waste at sea.

However, Gummer announced a week later that the dumping of liquid industrial waste and fly ash at sea would be banned in 1992.

Patten said the government would spend 1.5 billion pounds (\$2.5 billion) to build new sewage treatment works to end the discharge of raw sewage.

Half of NY women attacked

NEW YORK, March 6, (UPI): Nearly half of the city's professional women who responded to a magazine survey said they have been mugged, robbed or raped and a similar number say their fears of criminals are racially based, a survey showed yesterday.

Of the 350 women who responded to a survey by New York Woman magazine, 163, or 47 per cent, said they have been mugged, robbed or raped.

Only one respondent said she had no fears at all and those who were not victims chalked it up as much to luck as to cautious behaviour. The respondents represent a readership that lives primarily in low-crime areas of Manhattan, and not in New York's more crime-prone neighbourhoods, publisher Amy Rapoport said.

At least half the respondents conceded their crime fears are racially based and many white women responded that blacks are predisposed to being criminals, the magazine said.

Reaching young through comics

Crisis, Amnesty join forces

LONDON, March 6, (AP): Like the best of today's comic books, the latest edition of "Crisis" is readable, graphic and vibrant. But it features no jokes and no super heroes.

"Crisis" has joined forces with Amnesty International, the Nobel peace prize-winning human rights organisation, to hit youngsters with human rights issues in comic strip form.

"We are going after a new, younger, audience," said Dan Jones, head of campaigns at Amnesty International's London headquarters. "Part of our problem is that Amnesty International produces the most extraordinary stories and then they are put into an inaccessible form."

"Crisis," a twice-monthly comic book with a print run of up to 40,000, was launched a year ago and became Britain's second most popular comic book with its strips about animal rights, the environment and racism.

But where its stories tended hitherto to be fictional, the Amnesty International edition is presented as strictly factual.

"The comic book tells the story clearly and dramatically without lowering Amnesty International's high standards for facts and details," Jones said.

"Our name is on the paper and our reputation goes with it." The story of the "Upington 14" and their confinement on death row in Pretoria prison, South Africa, is told in grim, life-like colour drawings.

Fourteen blacks were sentenced to death for the mob killing of a black police officer in the northwestern town of Upington in November 1985. Although they were not proven to be individually guilty, they were sentenced under the legal doctrine of "common purpose," which holds them responsible as part of the mob.

The story's last page gives statistics on executions in South Africa and carries the statement: "Amnesty International is opposed to the death penalty... in the case of South Africa it asks that a judicial enquiry be appointed to look into the use of the 'common purpose' doctrine."

Jones said a paragraph was hastily added to inform readers that South African President F W de Klerk suspended the death penalty on Feb 2.

The comics were written by "Crisis" senior scriptwriter Pat Mills and artist Sean Phillips, using Amnesty International files.

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GOVERNMENT WARNING: SMOKING IS A MAJOR CAUSE OF CANCER AND DISEASES OF THE LUNGS, HEART AND ARTERIES

INTERNATIONAL

Split will be disastrous: Gorbachev

MOSCOW, March 6, (AP): President Mikhail Gorbachev has asserted that a breakup of his country would bring worse chaos to the Soviet Union than the Cultural Revolution had brought to China.

Ethnic tension and demands for independence from small republics increasingly threaten Soviet unity. In January, Gorbachev sent troops into Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, to restore Soviet power and halt attacks on ethnic Armenians.

Asked by reporters after he voted in Republic elections Sunday if he could put up with the expected declarations of

independence by the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, Gorbachev said trying to disentangle the nationalities of the Soviet Union after decades of living together would lead to trouble comparable to the upheaval in China that started in 1966.

Mao Tse-tung's attempt to revive revolutionary fervor sparked a violent struggle for power, closure of the universities for four years, destruction of antiquities, and a devastating setback in the country's economic development. An estimated one million people died in the decade-long upheaval, and some 30

million people suffered jail terms, torture, exile and official criticism.

"Just think of more than 60 million people living outside their national lands," Gorbachev said, referring to the more than 100 nationalities in the Soviet Union whose moves have turned many cities into ethnic patchworks.

As racial violence has erupted in the south, hundreds of thousands of such people have already fled in fear, leaving the country with a massive refugee problem.

"Just imagine these millions of people on the move," he said. "This will throw the country back. This will bring trouble to

people who have lived in some place for decades, which has become their second motherland."

"Over these decades, the interests of the republics and the people have become so entangled that if we now started to divide the entire country, this would lead to trouble," he said. "It would be worse than the cultural revolution in China. This simply cannot be allowed to happen."

Gorbachev said the proposed strong presidency is necessary "because stability and order have become loose" in the course of his reforms.

Kohl backs down on Polish borders

Gorbachev warns of serious consequences

BONN, March 6, (Agencies): West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl backed down today on his demand that a united Germany should only recognise Poland's post-war borders if Poland renounced claims for war reparations.

Chancellor Minister Rudolf Seiters said Kohl's centre-right coalition had decided at a crisis meeting to submit a joint motion to Parliament on Thursday calling for a treaty between a unified Germany and Poland formally recognising the border.

including by me."

Kohl, a Christian Democrat, had angered Poland and caused a serious row with his liberal foreign minister and coalition partner Hans-Dietrich Genscher by linking border recognition to reparations and guarantees of the rights of ethnic Germans in Poland.

He backed down at a 3 1/2-hour crisis meeting of his coalition parties, during which Genscher's Free Democrats accused him of using strong-arm tactics over German unification.

Poland was awarded large tracts of pre-war German territory by the victorious allies in 1945, compensating for the loss of larger eastern territories annexed by the Soviet Union.

Both German states have declared that they have no designs upon this territory.

But West Germany faces elections in December and Kohl has kept the border issue open because a small group of right-wingers still rejects the 1945 border on the Oder and Neisse rivers and wants to reclaim old German lands that now make up one-third of all Polish territory.

Preparatory talks between East and West Germany on unification will begin this week, before East Germany holds its March 18 general election, the GDR Foreign Ministry said today.

East and West German officials will meet in East Berlin on Friday to prepare for a meeting of representatives of the two Germanys and the four victorious World War Two powers — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France — probably in Bonn next Tuesday.

Western diplomats said Moscow was especially keen to start the so-called "two plus four" talks immediately to forestall any sudden move towards German unity after the East German poll.

Leaders of the Soviet Union and East Germany reaffirmed today that a unified Germany cannot belong to NATO and called for a phased approach to the merger of East and West Germany.

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev and East German Premier Hans Modrow, at a Kremlin meeting, also said Poland should be included in discussions of security issues among the United States, Soviet Union, Britain and France. They added that the four World War II powers were considering sending experts to meet among themselves before the March 18 East German elections.

Gorbachev said today that any German plans to recover lost territory would be fraught with serious consequences.

Gorbachev, quoted by the

"The border question should be settled in a treaty between an all-German government and the Polish government that sets the seal on the reconciliation of the two peoples," Seiters added, quoting from the motion.

One of Kohl's Free Democratic (FDP) coalition allies said the treaty would not mention war reparations.

Kohl, speaking briefly to journalists later outside a meeting of his Christian Democratic Party, said: "Mistakes were made on all sides,



West German Chancellor Minister Rudolf Seiters (right) gives details to waiting newsmen on the crisis meeting between Kohl and Genscher. (Reuters wirephoto)

Soviet Tass news agency, issued his warning before a meeting with East German Prime Minister Modrow.

"If anyone wants to use the

reunification of the two Germanys to reanimate revanchistic plans, that is irresponsible policy fraught with serious consequences," Gorbachev said.

Soviet system 'hates' Yeltsin

NEW YORK, March 6, (Reuters): Maverick Soviet politician Boris Yeltsin, in a book overflowing with bitter criticism of his country's leaders, says the Soviet system "hates" him and that his mysterious fall from a bridge last year was a bid to discredit him.

Yeltsin says that a car forced him to jump off a bridge and into the icy water of the Moscow river last October in what he calls "an organised, premeditated, provocative act."

The incident was widely publicised last year in what Yeltsin says in his just published autobiography, "Against the Grain," was an attempt to discredit him and the reform movement he represents.

He declined in the book, made available to reviewers yesterday, to directly call the incident an attempt on his life but said the Soviet Minister of Internal Affairs, Vadim Bakatin, gave a false account to a widely-publicised meeting of the Supreme Soviet last October.

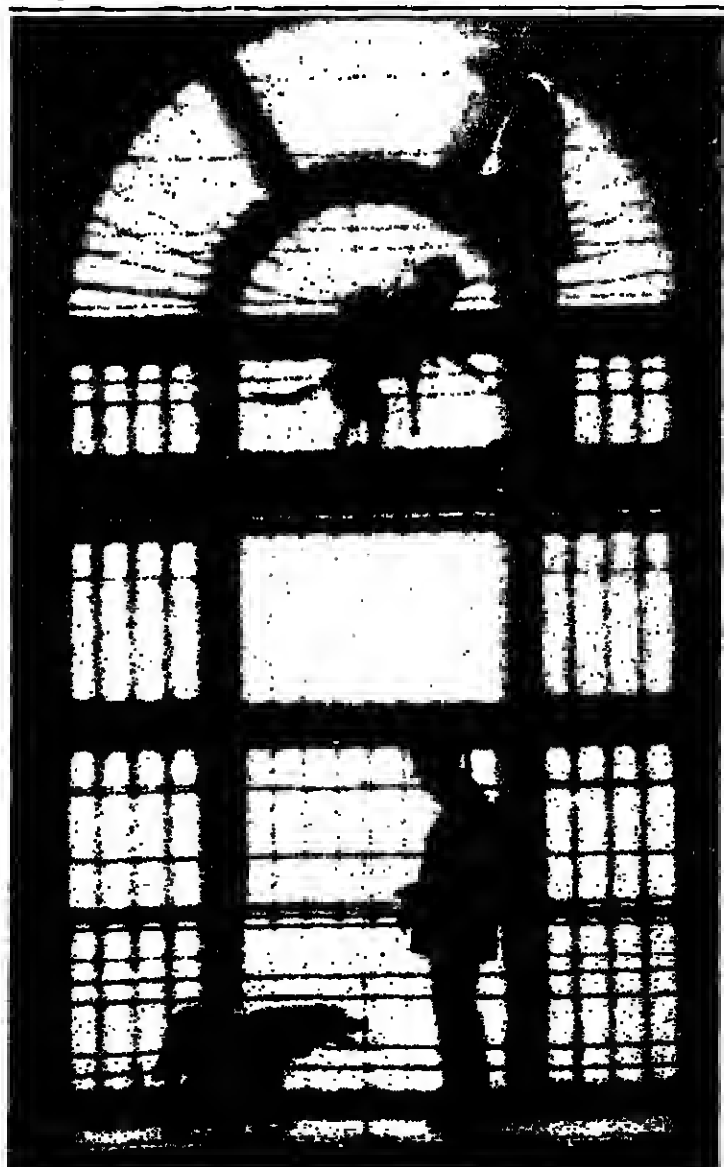
Bakatin told the Soviet parliament that Yeltsin originally had told police he was the victim of an assassination attempt but then denied it.

Bakatin said Yeltsin claimed that people had dragged him into a car, pulled a sack over his head and threw him off the bridge but later denied there was any attempt to harm him.

In a brief statement issued at that time, Yeltsin said there was no attempt on his life but declined further comment.

But in his book, he says: "I was certain that people would sense the numerous absurdities and inconsistencies in the version provided by the minister of internal affairs and would realise that something really had happened."

Yeltsin said the reason was to discredit him and that the provocation had some success at the time — his popularity fell and the rumours began to circulate that he had been going to visit his mistress and that "she had for some reason thrown a bucketful of water over me."



Routine checks for drugs

Prison officers of the Darlington Prison in Glasgow walk through the prison with two drug detection dogs. The dogs which are golden labradors, will be used to stamp out the use of drugs in prisons. (Reuters wirephoto)

Timisoara defendants blame army for firing at protesters

TIMISOARA, March 6, (AP): Members of executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's secret police said at their trial yesterday that army soldiers fired on unarmed protesters at the start of last December's revolution.

The secretive secret police had been accused of acting on Ceausescu's orders to shoot protesters in Timisoara, sparking widespread demonstrations across the country. The army has been credited with joining the civilian uprising that toppled Ceausescu

on Dec 22. He and his wife, Elena, were executed three days later after a summary trial.

Seven of the defendants on trial are charged with "committing genocide" and the rest with "assisting genocide" for the killing of 94 protesters and the wounding of about 300 in Timisoara.

Maj. Gen. Emil Macri and six others accused of "committing genocide" face life imprisonment. The other, lesser charge carries a maximum sen-

tence of 20 years in prison.

Macri and police Col. Ion Popescu, who testified yesterday before the three-member panel of judges from the supreme military tribunal, denied that secret police units under their command used force to quell the protests.

Leaders of Romania's 14 ethnic minorities said yesterday they wanted a government ministry to promote separate schools, language tuition and preservation of their cultures.



Trek to North Pole

Soviet artist and adventurer Fyodor Konyukhov starts out on his 1,000 km trek to the North Pole. He expects the journey to take 65 days and is carrying 80 kg of equipment. (Reuters wirephoto)

Too many candidates; run-offs needed Soviet polls confusion

MOSCOW, March 6, (Reuters): Election run-offs will be needed in many areas of the Soviet Union because the bewildering number of candidates and programmes last weekend left many voters baffled.

While reformers defeated veteran communists on Sunday in major Soviet urban centres, most seats went unfilled due to the multiplicity of candidates.

There were more than 7,000 candidates in the Russian federation. In the Ukraine 3,091 candidates fought over 450 seats and in Byelorussia 1,128 candidates vied for 310 places. In some districts as many as 20 candidates ran.

But, said a top election official: "Voters deprived of detailed information about candidates did not often have a clear idea of who they voted for."

Elections in the Russian federation, the Ukraine and Byelorussia — the Slavic heartland where 70 per cent of the Soviet Union's 280 million people live — will have to choose again on March 18.

The Russian federation's central electoral commission expressed concern that by the morning returns had come in from only 550 of the biggest republic's 1,668 districts.

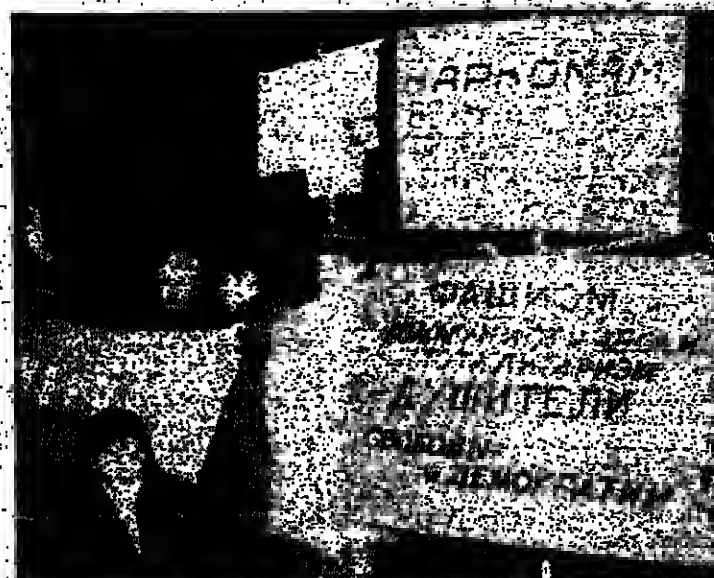
In the election campaign, the pollsters said, the current electoral legislation was far from perfect.

Mikhail Kukushkin, deputy chairman of the Russian Electoral Commission, told the government news agency Tass.

Preliminary returns yesterday showed former political prisoners and radical activists among those who won outright victories or will go into the March 18 run-offs with a lead.

In Leningrad, unofficial results showed candidates backed by the "democratic elections '90" bloc likely to win a solid majority on the city council.

Outright winners in Moscow included liberal newspaper editor Vladimir Starikov, who ran into criticism from Kremlin



Several hundred protesters from the anti-Stalinist 'memorial' group gathered in front of the KGB headquarters in Moscow to protest at activities of the police. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gorby tops in popularity

LONDON, March 6, (Reuters): A poll commissioned by British media showed an overwhelming majority of Soviet citizens backed a multi-party system and only a minority expected the Communist Party to be in power in five years time.

The poll, conducted by the Institute of Sociology at the Soviet Academy of Sciences for the Guardian newspaper and the British Broadcasting Corporation, also showed President Mikhail Gorbachev ahead in the popularity stakes.

The survey, broadcast on BBC's Newswatch programme last night and published in today's Guardian, involved 3,000 interviews with citizens in the Soviet cities of Moscow, Leningrad, Gorky, Irkutsk, Alma Ata and Tbilisi.

Gorbachev was found to be the most popular politician in the survey, ahead of his closest rival, Vice President Nikolai Ryzhkov, by a margin of 10 to 1.

On a rating of 1 to 10, Gorbachev got 6.88, Yeltsin 5.69 and Ligachev 2.67. Almost 80 per cent of those polled favoured establishment of a multi-party political system.

Twenty-nine per cent of respondents were unwilling to say how long the Communist Party would remain the leading party.

Leader Mikhail Gorbachev, and Sergei Kovalyov, a former political prisoner and colleague of the late human rights campaigner Andrei Sakharov.

Maverick politician Boris Yeltsin was elected to the Russian parliament with some 80 per cent of the vote from his native Ural city of Sverdlovsk.

In Byelorussia, mass movement leader Zenon Poznyak was elected to parliament. In the Ukraine, the second big-

gest republic, the mass movement Rukh scored big successes and announced plans to form a fully-fledged opposition party.

Tass also reported that in special runoff elections Sunday, Lithuania's pro-independence movement overwhelmingly gained control of the Baltic republic's parliament, setting a confrontation with Moscow over secession.

Cashing in on 'mad cows'

LONDON, March 6, (Kuna): The number of "mad cow" cases reported by British farmers has risen steeply since full compensation for diseased animals was offered last month, according to official figures here today.

In the month before the announcement by John Gummer, the agricultural minister, that full compensation could be paid, the number of suspected cases averaged 278 each week, and never rose higher than 316 a week.

But in the first week of full compensation ending February 23, the number of suspected cases rose to 469, an increase of 69 per cent.

Plane makes emergency landing: An aircraft carrying British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd was involved in an emergency landing at London's Heathrow airport late last night, after an apparent fault in the undercarriage, it was revealed today.

The BAe-125 executive jet, operated by the British Royal Air Force, circled above the airport for almost three quarters of an hour as the pilot tried to analyse the fault, which could have led to a crash landing. (Kuna)

Police van destroyed in bomb blast: A previously unknown terrorist group claimed responsibility for blowing up an empty police van in Salonika, Greece early today. No one was injured in the blast, police said.

The car bomb attack on the police vehicle was the second in four days by self-styled anarchists protesting the acquittal of a policeman last January for shooting a youth dead during riots in Athens. (AP)

Italian communists debate reform

Italian communists spurred by the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe want to set their party on a new course this week, one of their leaders believes can ultimately unite Italy's fractured political left.

The 1,100 delegates to the extraordinary congress of the Italian Communist Party meet Wednesday through Saturday in Bologna to consider party leader Achille Occhetto's proposal for a rebirth of the party. (AP)

Florence gang beats up Tunisian: A gang of youths beat a teenage Tunisian with iron bars on Florence's most famous square on Monday, the third attack on North African immigrants in the city in six days.

Police said four youths attacked Ahmed Elar, 17, shortly after midnight in the Renaissance Piazza Della Signoria in the heart of the city's historic centre. (Reuters)

Bush urges nations to sign pact: US President George Bush marked the 20th anniversary of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty on Monday by urging nations that are not now signatories to join in the pact.

To a written statement Bush called it a "significant arms control instrument" that has paved the way for international co-operation in peaceful uses of atomic energy. (Reuters)

Turkish boat fired at: Bulgaria, responding of Turkish accusations, said on Tuesday its coast guard fired on a Turkish fishing boat in the Black Sea two days ago because the vessel had violated Bulgarian territorial waters. (Reuters)

Polar bear worries

OSLO, March 6, (Reuters): An expert on the Arctic island has an unusual security problem — a hungry-looking polar bear is on the prowl.

After dark, ground workers at Norway's Longyearbyen airport, on Spitzbergen island around 1,000 km (630 miles) from the North Pole, rush around in pairs for protection. Last weekend, a polar bear lumbered to within 20 metres (yards) of the airport.

Arctic expeditions are further north than normal this year, forcing polar bears to hunt for unusual places.

Austrian-Iran arms scandal: A probe into illegal arms sales to Iran by a state-owned firm in neutral Austria has uncovered two more suspects, the Linz prosecutor's office said on Tuesday.

Eighteen managers from the Noridom company, a subsidiary of what was once Austria's largest state-controlled industrial group Voest, are in jail awaiting trial over the deliveries. (Reuters)

3 held for killer briefcases: Police seized a farm in the Australian outback on Tuesday after tying three men and confiscating equipment allegedly used to make pistol-firing assassination briefcases.

Police Sergeant John Marrs said the men were arrested at a farm near the town of Dubbo, 300 km (185 miles) northwest of Sydney.

Police found a partly constructed briefcase with a 32-calibre pistol inside "which could be activated by pressing the briefcase handle," Marrs said. (Reuters)

Lords demand prosecution of anti-Rushdie Muslims

LONDON, March 6, (AP): Members of the House of Lords have criticised the authorities for failing to prosecute Muslims in Britain who have threatened the life of novelist Salman Rushdie.

But in a brief debate last night in the unelected upper chamber of Parliament, the Lords were told there was insufficient evidence to prosecute.

Rushdie has been in hiding since February last year, when the Ayatollah Khomeini condemned him to death for allegedly blaspheming against Islam in his novel, "The Satanic Verses." Iran last month reaffirmed the threat.

Replying to demands by opposition peers for action, leader of the house Lord Belstead said the government prosecution service had decided there was insufficient evidence for proceedings against Muslims who had allegedly echoed the Iranian threat.

Lord Harris of the centrist Liberal Democratic Party warned that the failure to prosecute "is beginning to cause significant public disquiet."

He said there would have been uproar if similar threats had been made against the prime minister, a bishop or a rabbi, he said. "Salman Rushdie has committed no

offense under our law. All he has done is to exercise his right of free speech in a democracy," Harris said.

Another member, Bishop of Manchester Stanley Booth-Clibborn, said he understood the Muslims' sense of insult, but added they had no right to make death threats.

"It is the duty of the government and legal system to make this absolutely clear that such conduct is intolerable," he said.

Lord Stoddart of the Labour Party argued that by failing to prosecute, the government was giving the impression that it was not applying the law fairly.

GCC urges US to stand against Jewish influx

NICOSIA, March 6. (Reuters): Foreign Ministers of the Gulf Co-operation Council have urged the United States to take a firm stand against the settlement of Jewish Jews in the Israeli-occupied territories, the Saudi Press Agency SPA reported.

GCC members Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain enjoy good relations with the US but have often criticised Washington's Middle East policy which they say

is biased in favour of Israel.

In a statement issued last night at the end of a two-day meeting in Riyadh, the ministers said the US had a responsibility to prevent Israel from driving Palestinians out of their lands and replacing them with Jewish Jews.

"The GCC appeals to the international community, especially the United States to take a firm stand against the Israeli policy," SPA quoted the statement as saying.

Israel says it has no official policy of settling Soviet Jews in the occupied territories.

The GCC appealed to the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries to prevent their Jewish emigrants from settling in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, home to about 1.7 million Palestinians.

About 100,000 Soviet Jews are expected to arrive in Israel this year and up to half a million in the next five years under

the liberal policies of Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Hundreds have already moved to the Israeli-occupied territories, triggering bitter Arab protests.

The GCC statement condemned the Israeli process of "attracting the Soviet Jews and settling them in the occupied Palestinian territories, displacing the Palestinian people from their land."

Oman's Foreign Minister, Yousef Bin Alawi, earlier told a news conference that

the GCC has pledged to help the Arab League block the threat of large-scale Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel.

"The GCC states will exert every possible effort within the framework of Arab efforts to confront this emigration," said Alawi, the conference chairman.

The meeting at the GCC's Riyadh headquarters was called to formulate a common policy on Arab issues, especially Jordan's call for an emergency Arab summit.

'90: year of hostages' release

US-Iran direct talks ruled out

BEIRUT, March 6. (Agencies): An influential Muslim close to the Tehran government said today the Iranian leadership was unwilling to start direct talks with the United States and ruled out an early solution to the hostage crisis.

"The top Iranian leaders are not thinking of starting direct talks with America now," the senior Muslim, who requested anonymity, told Reuters.

A Tehran newspaper close to Iran's president said today that 1990 will be the last year of captivity for the hostages in Lebanon, noting that the resumption of ties between Iran and the United States was not a precondition for their release.

It was the second editorial within two weeks in the English-language Tehran Times saying the 18 Westerners in Lebanon should go free without preconditions. In the past the government-owned paper has reflected the thinking of President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Security sources in Beirut had earlier suggested that talks on the release of the hostages had reached an advanced stage and that American Terry Anderson might be freed by March 16 — the fifth anniversary of his abduction.

The White House said yesterday a lot was going on behind the scenes to win the release of 17 Westerners believed held in Lebanon by extremists loyal to Iran, but said it had no reason to believe a breakthrough was near.

"We can't say that there is any movement. We know of no imminent release," spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

Fitzwater said the United States would like to hold direct talks with Iran on the hostage issue but insisted no such talks were under way.

The Muslim figure said Iranian leaders could not disobey the teachings of the late supreme leader Ayatollah Khomeini who viewed the US as the "great Satan."

A pro-government Iranian newspaper said today an effort was underway to free the hostages and hoped Western countries would not create obstacles.

The Tehran Times, which on February 22 said hostages in Lebanon should be set free this year, gave no other details of moves to free the captives but said:

"Our own assessment indicates that this thorny issue can be sorted out in the near future in a sincere spirit by sincere people, an attempt that is being made even right now as we go to press."

The newspaper dismissed reports of secret talks between Iran and the US on freeing eight Americans, among the 17 hostages.

"There are no secret direct talks but I do not rule out all kinds of discussions and all kinds of talks," Fitzwater said.

He said a broad range of people were involved, including businessmen and diplomats.

Another Iranian newspaper said the flurry of reports about the hostages and talks between Tehran and Washington aimed to portray Iran as a "pro-terrorist" state and weaken internal confidence in the Iranian leadership.

The paper said it was not to the advantage of Iranian media "to become univocal with imperialist loudspeakers and utter what is desired, for example, by the voice of America."

The Tehran Times editorial, excerpted by the official Islamic Republic News Agency, denied reports that the trip by the President's brother to the Syrian capital of Damascus was related to the hostage question.

The editorial said an effort was underway to free the hostages because "Islam in no way allows or condones the idea that people should be taken or held hostage."

The paper said there were no direct talks between Tehran and Washington on resuming relations, according to the IRNA report monitored in Nicosia.

In Beirut, the International Committee of the Red Cross sent a message today to two Swiss employees kidnapped in Lebanon in 1989 telling them not to give up hope.

Beirut barricades removed

Saudis pledge aid to Hirawi

RIYADH, March 6. (AP): Lebanese President Elias Hiriawi left yesterday for Algeria after two days of talks with King Fahd who promised military aid to help build a strong army, informed sources reported.

The sources, speaking on condition they were not named, said Hiriawi would seek similar help from Algerian President Chadli Benjedid.

But they said that Hiriawi was also promised vast financial aid by Fahd to help rebuild a country that has been ravaged by nearly 15 years of civil war.

Hiriawi was warmly received in his capacity as representative of all the Lebanese and leader of the Lebanese transitional march to peace and stability," the Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal, said in a statement.

A joint statement said Fahd and Hiriawi held intensive talks on the Lebanese crisis and the latest "tragic, destructive and illogical" flareup.

The statement affirmed Saudi Arabia's readiness to extend all possible assistance to the Lebanese in their war rehabilitation plans, to help Hiriawi extend his authority across the country and complete the peace process.

The statement gave no details and made no direct mention of the Arab League committee's recommendation for an emergency Arab summit conference.

The sources said that it was up to Hiriawi to decide on the need for a summit and when to ask the 22-member Arab League to convene it.

The sources denied reports from Beirut that Hiriawi had sought Syrian military intervention to force Aoun to heel.

But Syria has offered to put forces at Hiriawi's disposal if he requested them. Hiriawi's own 22,000-man Muslim troops are poorly equipped.

The sources said that Fahd and Hiriawi agreed that diplomatic contacts with parties who have influence on the war-

ring sides was the best means of bringing the situation under control.

The sources said Iraq, Syria's main Arab rival, has cut military assistance to Aoun "cently."

Hiriawi told reporters in Algeria that Lebanon welcomed the support of all Arab countries, especially members of an Arab League committee set up to end Lebanon's 15-year civil war.

"We will work with all Arab countries and especially members of the Arab tripartite committee which has begun to end the Lebanese ordeal. We are confident this ordeal will end," he said.

In Beirut, rival Christian forces began to dismantle mines from the battlefronts as mediators worked for an agreement that would prevent a recurrence of violence, Christian security sources said.

The sources said troops loyal to Aoun and Lebanese forces militiamen of Samir Geagea were removing obstacles and sand barricades from the streets in Dora and Sin Al Fil. Roads were reopened as conditions were returning to normal, the sources said.

Mediators have been working around the clock to narrow differences between Aoun and Geagea and negotiate a settlement to the 5-week-old conflict.

Sources close to the mediation panel said talks were under way to form a joint committee that would include Aoun, Geagea and other Christian figures to deal with affairs in the Christian enclave.

Christian security sources said Aoun has proved incapable of scoring a victory against Geagea's militiamen and ousting them from east Beirut as he had promised.

Aoun's forces on Thursday launched a wide-scale offensive against militia positions in Ashrafieh, Doria and Karantina but failed to advance at any of those axes.

PLO must be in peace talks: Arafat

Likud sets fresh demands for parleys

KUALA LUMPUR, March 6. (Agencies): Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat today said the Palestine Liberation Organisation must be included in proposed Middle East peace talks.

"With whom (are) they (the Israelis) ... going to make talks, with ghosts or with invisible men or invisible delegation," Arafat, chairman of the PLO, told reporters in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur.

"Shamir knows no peace can be settled by overruling the Palestinian rights and the Palestinian leadership, the PLO. He can't hide the sun with his finger," Arafat said.

Shamir's Likud Party wants the PLO barred from peace talks. Arafat said he had submitted the PLO's conditions on the proposed peace talks to US Secretary of State James Baker but declined to detail them.

Baker has proposed the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo talks include Palestinians who had been exiled by Israel and West Bank Arabs with an office or second residence in occupied east Jerusalem.

The peace talks are intended to work out details of the elections that Shamir suggested during the early days of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, currently in its 28th month.

The PLO views occupied east Jerusalem, now home to 140,000 Palestinians, as the future capital of its independent state and insists residents of the city participate in talks and elections.

Arafat criticised the current settlement of Soviet Jews in the West Bank and Gaza Strip before a peaceful settlement was reached in the Middle East.

"Nothing has been settled between the Palestinians and Israel, so they can't have the right to make any demographic changes before a final comprehensive and lasting settlement," he said.

"Otherwise we will call for all Muslim and Christians to come and live in this holy land," he said.

In occupied Jerusalem Likud



Arafat holds up an Israeli coin and a map showing Israel and its occupied territories during a press conference in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Party today made fresh demands on its labour coalition partner, delaying an Israeli decision on whether to accept a US formula for peace talks with Palestinians.

The rightist Likud has deflected domestic and US pressure to attend the proposed talks in Cairo by demanding the dovish Labour Party now accept tough conditions it has so far rejected.

After a five-hour meeting, Likud said Labour must agree to

exclude Arabs in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem from elections, Shamir proposed last year for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It also wanted the Palestine Liberation Organisation barred from the peace efforts and unprecedented talks.

A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation official said yesterday the PLO has not furnished a list of Palestinian delegates to

take part in proposed US-sponsored Israeli-Palestinian talks.

Abdel Razzak El Yehia, member of the PLO executive committee, made the remarks in an interview in the Qatari newspaper Al Arab.

European Economic Community foreign ministers yesterday endorsed a plan to double EEC aid to Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories over the next two years, diplomats said.

Bush tries to heal rift over Jerusalem status

WASHINGTON, March 6. (Agencies): President George Bush moved to heal a growing rift with Israel yesterday declaring that he supported the right of Jews to live in a united Jerusalem whose status would be determined in a Middle East peace settlement.

Bush made the statement in a telephone conversation with Seymour Reich, president of the conference of Presidents of American Jewish Organisations, who called to voice concern at a Bush statement over a weekend expressing opposition to Jewish settlements in the West Bank and occupied east Jerusalem.

Bush also urged US Jewish leaders yesterday to help promote a pre-election dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians as soon as possible.

"This remains the surest path available to promoting a peace that would ensure Israeli security and the legitimate political rights of Palestinians," Fitzwater said.

The fact that Bush equated Jewish suburbs of occupied Jerusalem in what was previously Jordanian-controlled land with West Bank settlements provoked an immediate outcry in Israel and a defiant response from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

It was the latest in a series of clashes between Israel and Washington in the past week that appeared to endanger intense diplomatic efforts

to establish a peace dialogue between Israel and Palestinians.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Bush had assured Reich that the United States supported a united Jerusalem whose final status would be determined by negotiations. She criticised Israel's decision to impose military censorship on news items about Soviet immigration.

"The president also made clear US support for Jews as well as others to live there in the context of a negotiated settlement," Fitzwater said.

Reich told Reuters Bush had acknowledged that his equating of occupied Jerusalem with the West Bank "may have been unfortunate."

Angry Israeli leaders yesterday dismissed US statements citing Jewish neighbourhoods in the annexed east Jerusalem as settlements.

"United Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, will not be divided again. It will grow and will be enlarged under Israeli sovereignty. All the partners to the coalition accept this principle," Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said in parliament.

Arens, of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc, was supported by Vice Premier Shimon Peres of the centre-left Labour Party, Likud's main political rival and coalition partner.

Mandela invited to Palestine

Palestinian leader of a 27-month-old revolt against Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip today invited freed South African black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela to visit "Palestine."

"The unified leadership of the uprising invites African leader Nelson Mandela to visit our occupied Palestinian state to observe on the ground the same conditions of repression that both of our struggling people live under," a leaflet issued by the clandestine command of the uprising said. (Reuters)

Cyprus lobbies congress: The President of Cyprus pressed congressional leaders Monday in Washington to help break deadlocked negotiations over his country's future.

President George Vassiliou said his discussions went "very well ... it was very productive, very useful." (AP)

Jordanian jet crashes: A Jordanian air force trainer jet crashed in hills north of Amman last week, killing its Bahraini pilot, a government source said on Tuesday.

He said a Spanish-made Casa C-101 Aviojet crashed on Wednesday between Jerash and Ajloun, apparently because the Bahraini trainee pilot fainted during a climbing turn. (Reuters)

Morocco raises fines tenfold: Morocco has increased tenfold the fines it imposes on foreign fishing vessels that violate regulations in its territorial waters, a diplomatic source said in Rabat on Monday.

Moroccan officials have not commented on angry reactions from operators of Spanish fishing fleets who are protesting against the bigger fines by blocking ports in southern Spain at Algeciras, Huelva and Almeria. (Reuters)

MIDEAST BRIEFS



Thatcher (right) greets Turkish Defence Minister Safa Giray prior to talks. (Reuters wirephoto)

Military priority to Mideast: NATO member Turkey has said it may eventually switch its defence priorities from Eastern Europe to the Middle East. (Reuters)

Protests against censorship: Israel's top organisation of newspaper editors on Monday protested against censorship imposed by the government on the figures of Soviet Jewish immigration.

"There was a discussion. I think we were of joint negative opinion regarding the restrictions," said Hannah Zemer, the editor of the daily Davar affiliated with the centre-left Labour Party. (AP)

Qichen visits Yemen: Chinese Foreign Minister Qichen arrived Monday in Aden on a Middle East tour that includes North and South Yemen. (AP)

American couple identified: Forensic scientists on Monday identified a dead couple killed during a blaze at a five-star Cairo hotel as Americans, bringing the known total of American dead in the nine hour fire to at least four, a US embassy spokeswoman said.

In a separate development, Cairo's Ramses Hilton Hotel said Monday it removed as a "fire risk" an Arabic-style canvas tent from near its premises last year, the tent caught fire. (UPI)

Cairo to plant trees: The Egyptian government, within its efforts to stop the alarming high rates of population, intends to plant about 205,000 trees in Cairo's streets and gardens, an official said in Cairo Tuesday.

Head of the public authority for cleanliness and beautification of Cairo, Ismael Tawfik told Kuna that Egypt will also plant about 250,000 trees in 1992. (Kuna)

Iraq welcomes talks: Iraq said Monday it welcomes the holding of direct talks with Iran but stressed that the structure and function of the talks have been defined by the ceasefire agreement nearly two years ago. (Kuna)

Kurdistan state of siege: An Iranian Kurdish opposition group said on Monday a state of siege had been declared in Iranian Kurdistan following anti-government protests in the main towns of the area. (Reuters)



Shamir leaves the meeting while aide Yossi Achmeir reads the new demands made. (Reuters wirephoto)

Algerian reformists repulse hardliners

ALGIERS, March 6. (Reuters): Reformists in Algeria's ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) appear to have repulsed a challenge by hardliners in a raucous central committee meeting deemed crucial to the party's electoral prospects.

The extraordinary meeting was suspended late on Sunday night, but officials said today specialised committees would continue work until a closing session later this month.

At stake is the unity and political programme for the party that has ruled Algeria unchallenged for 27 years, but is due to face its first multi-party elections on the local level in June.

Most political observers say the FLN risks losing a number of municipal and provincial governments to the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front and the other newly legal opposition parties.

Old guard FLN members powerful under former president Houari Boumedienne used the meeting to attack economic reforms launched by President Chadli Benjedid, saying they risked setting the country on the road to capitalism.

The reforms that have restructured state enterprises have brought no improvement," said former Industry Minister Abdelmallem Belaid.

But Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche delivered a forceful three-hour defence of the reforms on Sunday night, saying they were designed to strengthen, not weaken, the public sector.

The answers given by Hamrouche put an end to a certain confusion which had hitherto prevailed relative to the economic reforms," central committee member Achcha Belhadji was quoted as saying today in the FLN daily Al Moudjahid.

Rafsanjani publicly admits to rampant corruption within welfare organisations

NICOSIA, March 6. (AP): Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani yesterday portrayed himself as the champion of the poor and said that the funds of a major welfare organisation designed to help "the deprived" have been misused.

In what was seen as a public admission of rampant corruption, Rafsanjani told officials of the Imam Khomeini Welfare Committee, a multi-million-dollar organisation, that its funds have "not been distributed justly among the deprived."

"Sometimes resources for the deprived have been used by the non-deprived," Tehran radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Rafsanjani as telling the officials.

"Your duty is to see that these means are distributed justly."

Rafsanjani did not elaborate. But last

October, the former head of another major welfare organisation, the Nabovat Foundation, was sentenced to death by an Islamic court for embezzling millions of dollars of its funds.

Corruption is believed to be widespread in Iran's bloated bureaucracy. Legislator Hashem Hashemzadeh recently demanded tougher government action to stamp out "financial and administrative corruption."

He warned that "inflation, multi-tier prices, erroneous economic policies ... mismanagement, absence of supervision and red tape ... are breeding grounds for bribery, corruption, theft and financial abuses."

Rafsanjani also called for more jobs to alleviate widespread unemployment, currently pegged at 30 per cent. He

admitted in January that factories are running at only 40 per cent of capacity.

His government Sunday announced the creation of 2 million new jobs in the framework of a \$112 billion five-year development plan to revive the sluggish economy after more than a decade of mismanagement and turmoil.

The moves by Rafsanjani, leader of Tehran's so-called pragmatists who seek improved ties with the West, appeared designed to outmanoeuvre radical rivals who oppose his policies and at the same time muffle growing discontent by Iran's 55 million people.

Many are frustrated with the government's failure to improve conditions since the August 1988 ceasefire in the 8-year war with Iraq. Rafsanjani was elec-

ted last July and pledged sweeping reforms.

Opposition groups, including the Iraq-based Mujahadeen Khalq, or People's Holy Warriors, have reported large-scale protests in Tehran and other major cities. The dissidents claim security forces have killed several hundred protesters.

There has been no independent confirmation of these claims. But official statements and newspaper reports have indicated that there has been some unrest.

Tehran residents contacted by telephone have reported that sporadic protests have taken place, but declines to give details.

Rafsanjani has in recent days repeatedly stressed that his government

seeks to ease the hardships endured by Iranians for the last decade.

Analysts believe that he must provide clear progress in the next few months or face increased attacks by fundamentalist radicals.

They oppose his plans to privatise loss-making state enterprises, a major drain on the economy, and secure hefty foreign investment for post-war reconstruction.

The anti-Western radicals favour state control of the economy and argue that attracting foreign investment will undermine the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Rafsanjani has lifted restrictions on a wide range of imports, including raw materials and consumer goods, in an effort to meet public demand and to boost industrial production.

ARAB TIMES GRAND

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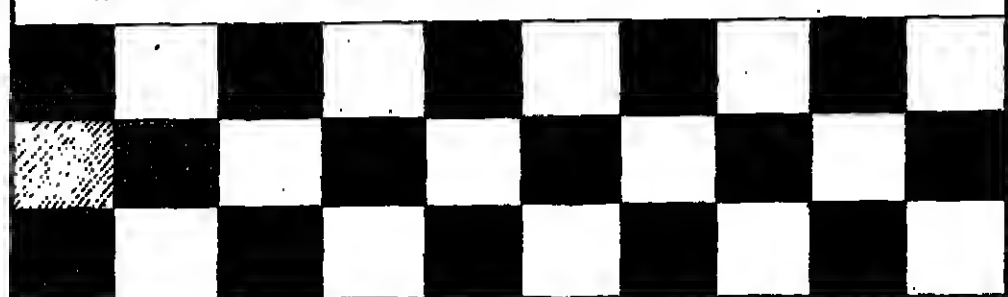
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1. Solve the clue underneath the entry card (below) and enter the number that you think is the answer in the shaded square on the left-hand side of the card. This square must be completed.
2. Now select a further 14 numbers between 1 and 90 inclusive and enter these in the remaining open squares. You should now have 15 DIFFERENT numbers on your card. Please write them clearly, in ballpoint or ink.
3. Fill in your name and address in the
4. appropriate lines on the form, in block letters.
5. Make an exact copy of your 15 numbers on the copy card provided underneath, and keep it so that you can check off your numbers as they appear in the ARAB TIMES every day.
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When you have a claim, please call 4813566/272 or 287 between 12 noon and 1 pm. Claims after 1 pm WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. You or anyone telephoning for you must have your copy card when the claim is made.

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 Arab Times,
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Arabs should confront Jewish threat: Jaber

Call for unified media strategy

CAIRO, March 6, (Kuna): Minister of Information Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah said yesterday that the mass exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel is the second biggest challenge facing the Arab nation after the establishment of the Zionist entity in Palestine.

Sheikh Jaber said, in an interview with

the Egyptian newspaper Mayo: "The Arab world should exert all efforts to confront this issue." He noted that the Arab world had overcome serious challenges in the past.

On the Arab media, Sheikh Jaber said the Arab world does not have a unified media strategy, and stressed the Arab

world should agree on basic lines for the media policy at least toward major issues facing the Arab world.

Commenting on the issue of a united Europe, the Kuwaiti minister called for a unified media formula to confront the changes in the Arab world as well as internationally as a result of this move.

On democracy in Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber said that the dialogue, which is currently under way, is the best way for the community and the country.

He said, HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah's meetings with the people in harmony with the nature of our society.

Egyptians arrive with messages to Amir

KUWAIT, March 6, (Kuna): Egypt's Foreign Undersecretary and Director of protocol Hosni Mubarak's office Osama Al Baz arrived here yesterday for talks with Kuwaiti officials on latest Arab developments.

In an arrival statement, Baz said that he is carrying messages from the Egyptian leadership to the Kuwaiti leadership. He would not divulge the contents of these messages.

He denied that Palestinian-Egyptian relations were affected by the attack on the Israeli tourist bus and the recent incidents in Egypt and said the Palestine Liberation Organisation has no relation with these incidents.

On the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, he said that Egypt is in consultation with the Arab countries on this issue and pointed out that this is one of the issues that he will discuss with Kuwaiti officials.

He added that President Mubarak has sent a message to HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed on this issue.

In response to another question, Baz said that the convening of an Arab summit requires comprehensive Arab consultations and that Arab leaders will set the appropriate date.

Baz was received by Foreign Undersecretary Suliman Majed Al Shabien and senior officials at the foreign ministry.

Meanwhile a local daily has quoted Arab diplomatic sources as saying that the return of the Arab League headquarters to Egypt will not be discussed at the forthcoming Arab League Foreign Ministers Conference slated for March 10 in Tunis.

Sources told the daily that the issue will be debated by Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali and his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak during Ben Ali's visit to Cairo scheduled to start today.

They predicted that two leaders would postpone deciding on the issue and withdraw an Egyptian request to discuss the return of the headquarters to Cairo.

However, they cautioned that withdrawal of the request would not mean that Egypt had given up the issue but rather that it would retake it at a more opportune time.

The sources said that Egypt was encouraged to withdraw its request by the fact that amendments on the league charter, that were prepared by a legal committee, did not refer to the article stipulating that the Arab League's seat is in Cairo.

Meanwhile, the sources said that the Arab foreign ministers would discuss preparations for holding an Arab summit in addition to its date and venue.

Nasser in Cairo to attend ALO convention

CAIRO, March 6, (Kuna): Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Ahmed is in Cairo to participate in the 18th session of the Arab Labour Organisation.

Sheikh Nasser was welcomed on arrival by the Egyptian Minister of Manpower Assem Abdul Haq and the organisation's director Hashim Al Banany.

The Kuwaiti minister stated that he was delighted to head an official delegation to the meetings of the Arab Labour Organisation which convenes here following re-admission of Egypt to the Arab League. He also said he was honoured to convey greetings from HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah to President Hosni Mubarak.

Sheikh Nasser emphasised the significance of holding the organisation's session at this juncture whereby the Arabs are in a bad need for rational approach which could formulate a regional unity to deal with the external world.

He pointed to the prospects of getting closer to Africa, which is the geographic extension of the Arab world, so as to confront the new world blocs within the framework of mutual benefits and interests.



Farewell reception

US Ambassador, W. Nathaniel Howell, says goodbye to British envoy, Peter Hinchcliffe at a reception held at the British embassy premises on Monday. Hinchcliffe is leaving Kuwait at the end of his tenure.

Ministerial Council recommendations

GCC to consolidate Iraq-Iran peace efforts

RIYADH, March 6, (Kuna): The Gulf Co-operation Council Ministerial Council has reiterated support for international efforts to consolidate peace between Iraq and Iran and condemned the Zionist entity's scheme of resettling Soviet and East European Jews in occupied Palestine.

In a communique at the conclusion of the 34th GCC Ministerial Session here last night, the council expressed backing for the UN Secretary-General's endeavour to execute Security Council Resolution 598 concerning the Iraq-Iran dispute.

In this context, the council expressed satisfaction at Iraq and Iran's commitment to achieve a comprehensive peace between them.

Meanwhile, the council strongly denounced the Soviet Jews influx to occupied Palestine and displacement of the Palestinian people, urging the Soviet Union along with Eastern European countries to halt the Jewish emigration.

It appealed to the international community, particularly the United States to adopt a firm position against the Israeli policy of challenging international will.

The council praised the Palestinian infitah and sacrifices, asserting the GCC countries' full support of the Palestinian struggle to attain legitimate goals.

The council urged the international community to back the Palestinian uprising and expose and denounce brutal Israeli practices against innocent Palestinians.

On Lebanon, the conference stressed the importance of supporting Lebanese legitimacy, urging Lebanese rivals to practice self-restraint and deal wisely with justice, particularly at this delicate stage according to the Taif agreement.

On implementation of the economic agreement and the co-operation march among the GCC six-member states, the council discussed implementation of the supreme council resolutions regarding promotion and development of joint co-operation in order to reach an integrated economy.

The council welcomed the GCC-EEC joint meeting in Muscat on March 17th, stressing its intention to ensure success of such a meeting.

The conference also expressed strong condemnation at the terrorist murder of the three Saudi diplomats in Bangkok recently, calling on the Thai government to apprehend the criminals and bring them to justice in order that confidence will be restored to diplomatic relations.

Concluding, the statement said that the council renewed

another three-year term for the GCC Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs, Saif Bin Hashil Al Musairy, as of next April.

The two-day session was held under chairmanship of Omani State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Yousif Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah.

In the meantime, Saudi Arabia expressed satisfaction at the GCC Ministerial Session, saying it was a landmark in the GCC's history.

The Saudi Press Agency quoted State Minister and Acting Information Minister Mohammad Ibrahim Masoud as saying that the council of ministers expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the visit to the kingdom by Lebanese President Elias Hrawi.

Masoud said the council reiterated Saudi Arabia's adherence, as a member of the supreme tripartite committee on Lebanon, to continue support of peace in Lebanon and extend all necessary help to enable the Lebanese people to restore security and stability.



Anti-narcotic talks

Major Yacoub Fadhala from the Ministry of Interior, delivered a lecture at Isiah Society branch in Failaka. Dr Najeeb Al Refai, from the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training participated in the lecture on the effects of narcotics on youth.

Fadhala talked about the ill-effects of narcotics and called upon all concerned authorities to co-operate in order to combat this phenomenon. He also gave a brief explanation on the size of the phenomenon and articles included in laws on the narcotics problem in addition to narcotics types and resources.

Japanese delegation to tour Gulf

TOKYO, March 6, (Kuna): A Japanese delegation leaves tomorrow for a tour of the Gulf countries including Kuwait to boost technological co-operation in the region.

The delegation, the first of its kind, will be headed by director of Japanese Ministry's Middle East Department, two officials of the ministry's Economic Co-operation Department and other two members from Japanese International Co-operation Agency (Jica).

The director, told Kuwait News Agency, that Japan believes in the importance of the Gulf coun-

tries to Japan, adding that the delegation's visit targets strengthening bilateral cultural and personal relations.

He added that the Gulf countries will be briefed on the Jaisa system and at the same time the Japanese delegation will try to understand the concept and development of human resources in the Gulf in addition to enhancing technological co-operation with the various ministries.

The delegation's one-week visit, will make the first stop at the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to be followed by Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sabah returns

KUWAIT, March 6, (Kuna): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed returned home yesterday from Riyadh after attending the 34th session of the GCC ministerial council, which ended its meetings this evening.

Sheikh Sabah was received by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Saoud Al Othman, Foreign Undersecretary Suliman Majed Al Shabien and other officials at the foreign ministry.

US credibility

KUWAIT, March 6, (Kuna): A Kuwaiti daily today described reported US political pressure on Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir to talk peace with the Palestine Liberation Organisation as inadequate and useless.

"That is because the United States has proved its perennial weakness in front of every Israeli government, especially the Likud," the daily wrote editorially.

The paper warned the Palestinians and the entire Arab nation not to be taken in by illusive statements issued now and then by senior American officials, indicating the glorious uprising had proved to the whole world the invalidity of the Israeli security theory.

"Israel has no confidence in its military capabilities to impose its conditions and realise its alleged stability. If initially accepted the idea of dialogue because it feels that its security and stability cannot be achieved without reaching understanding with the Palestinians through dialogue," opined the daily.

The paper argued that the US, Israel, and other powers could not overlook the fact that there was a new factor on the land, saying it was legitimate for Israel to understand that fact and consequently start dialogue with the Palestinians and the PLO.

Friendship society

KUWAIT, March 6, (Kuna): Four Italian Parliamentarians who are members of the National Society of Arab-Italian Friendship said that the society is seeking to promote a better understanding of Arab causes in their country.

The Italian team of MPs, talking to reporters at a downtown hotel, said that there was a big change in the Italian government's policy toward the Palestinian issue because of the society's activities and that they tried to persuade their government to recognise the national rights of the Palestinian people.

The society also contributed to change in the Italian public opinion in favour of the Palestinian cause, they added.

Kuwait's Assistant Undersecretary for Foreign Information Rida Al Fealy who introduced the Italian parliamentarians believed that Arab societies should co-operate with European ones to relay the true image of Arab national cause against the Jewish propaganda there.

Cartoons exhibit

KUWAIT, March 6, (Kuna): Adviser at the Amir Diwan Abdul Aziz Hussein yesterday inaugurated the political cartoons exhibition of Abdul Wahab Al Awadi.

Hussein and Assistant Secretary General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters Suliman Al Asadani toured the exhibition.

On display in the 10-day exhibition are 50 works on political themes.

Italian envoy

KUWAIT, March 6, (Kuna): Minister of State for Services Affairs Issa Mohammad Mazidi today received at his office Italian ambassador to Kuwait Marco Colombo.

He also received separately the Venezuelan ambassador to Kuwait Jose de Jesus Oso.

Mazidi discussed with his guests ways of enhancing bilateral co-operation.

Zayed for Japan

TOKYO, March 6, (Reuters): United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan will make an official visit to Japan in mid-May, a foreign ministry official said.

The president, also ruler of the emirate of Abu Dhabi, will be the UAE's first head of state to visit Japan since the two nations established diplomatic relations in 1971, he said.

Social Affairs doled out KD1.7m in Jan

Work programmes organised

THE Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour statistics said that ministry's donations totalled around KD1.7 million during January 1990 that covered 10,489 needy families consisting of 18,278 citizens. These donations included those paid to the elderly, needy families with students, disabled persons, orphans, widows, divorced women,

patients, poor people, unmarried girls and families of prisoners.

The statistics added that an amount of KD32,561 was paid to 140 military staff of defence and interior ministries during the same month. It added that the ministry transferred KD14,441 to the housing ministry as installments that are sup-

posed to be paid to 1440 families. The productive families section organised several programmes for needy families in tailoring, cooking, decoration and typing. These programmes served 187 women and girls from these families.

It added that 995 handicapped citizens benefited from services of social welfare

houses. The labour departments at Capital, Jahra, Hawalli and Farwaniya fulfilled 31,326 formalities in the same month. They included 4509 formalities of permissions to enter into the country for work, 5435 work permits for the first time, 17755 formalities to renew work permits and 807 formalities to cancel and transfer work permits.

4,000-year-old pearl found in Bahrain

MANAMA, March 6, (AP): Archaeologists have unearthed a 4,000-year-old pearl, stirring widespread excitement today in this Gulf island whose oil riches now overshadow its former glory as the land of pearls.

This is an excellent find, the most romantic find of the decade," said Robert Killick, director of the joint London-Bahrain archaeological expedition.

Killick said the pearl was pink and four millimetres in diameter, approximately the size of a tear-drop.

He told the Associated Press that unlike gold or silver trinkets, ancient pearls are extremely rare finds because their surfaces pearl and they disintegrate.

Bahrain's newspapers splashed the find across their front pages today.

This is from the old Dilmun era," Killick said, referring to the time 45-50 centuries ago when the small island thrived as a major trading centre between Mesopotamia — now Iraq — and the Indus Valley of West Asia. Archaeologists have recently been concentrating on this period.

Killick said the pearl was believed 4,000-years-old because his expedition was digging through remains of an ancient town dating to that time. Centours of town streets and houses were beginning to emerge, he said.

Killick believes the only other pearls of such age were found in Iraq, and his find was definitely one of the earliest found in Bahrain. "Even pearl beads from later centuries are rare," he said.

It was possible that residents of Bahrain did not exploit their pearl riches in ancient history, Killick said.

It was only in the past three centuries that the pearling industry thrived in Bahrain. Its pre-eminent role in the area earned it the title "The Pearl of the Gulf."

The industry tapered off with the advent of Japan's artificial pearl industry and the vast wealth earned from oil.

Killick's expedition, a joint effort involving Bahrain's Ministry of Information and the British Academy, hopes to prove there were well-developed societies in the Gulf region in those ancient times.

The 9-member expedition has a 5-year concession, excavating a site at Saar seeking to reconstruct life in a settlement in the Dilmun civilisation.



Salem visited

The Minister of Interior, Sheikh Salem Al Sabah received at his office the director of the Special Institutions Department, Mohammed Al Hamaedi and a student delegation.

Later in the day the minister also received the head of the Kuwaiti Journalists Society, Ahmad Yousif Bahbahani, and the society general secretary, Ahmad Shams Al Dean. The minister received a gift from the students.

Don't switch to summer clothes yet

DO NOT be in too much of a hurry to switch to summer clothes, is the advice of Dr Saleh Al Ojairi, the well-known Kuwaiti astronomer.

Ojairi explained that the weather is in a state of change, and some cold air waves are expected to be experienced in Kuwait. He attributed the present increase of temperature during the past days to the south wind that sometimes brings in its wake sand storms and spreads allergies.

He added that the noticeable increase in temperature is attributed to the mix of winter with the spring season.

There is every probability of rain due to the accumulation of clouds and a probability for it to be accompanied with hail during the month of April and the holy Month of Ramadan that will begin on Tuesday March 27th. Ramadan will be completed in 30 days this year, he said.

Diverse cultural heritage to be presented

Indian Mela from April 26-May 4

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

A TASTE of the East, a flavour from the West, something musical from the South and a little colour from the North — this in essence seems to be the mood of the India Mela (festival), due to be held in Kuwait during the Eid holidays at the Indian Arts Circle in Funaitees.

Months of preparation and careful planning seems to have gone into putting on the week-long festival, scheduled from April 26 to May 4, that was announced at a press briefing yesterday.

The festival is being organised by the Indian Arts Circle (IAC) with the blessings of the Indian embassy and over 40 Indian cultural groups.

Announcing the festival, Indian Counsellor R.S. Mukhiya said the main objective is to create a "sense of participation" among the community and provide a "comprehensive format for cultural activities."

Mukhiya said they hope to project "all faces of the rich cultural heritage of India."

The organisers also hope to use the festival as a platform to

"convey an idea of culture and arts" in India to the host community.

Although similar festivals have been held, the forthcoming event promises to bring to the fore the diversity of Indian cultural heritage, spread over a series of events over the week.

Services

Conscious of the tremendous amount of work that is required to put on such a show, IAC President M. Mathews has urged all Indians to volunteer their services, in whatever form they can. "We need the support of the entire community," said Mathews.

The idea was born some months ago and has crystallised into the grand festival, which the organisers hope may attract thousands of Indians. There are 161,000 Indians in Kuwait.

The organisers have formed several committees, involving over 200 people and several volunteers. Mukhiya is the chairman of the India Festival Committee; Indian First Secretary Varughese Gee chairs the reception committee; Dayal

Mirchandani of the Al Mulla Group heads the finance committee; Gori Khandiwala of the Al Ghanim Industries is chairman of the sales committee; Pripal Bansal of The Sultan Center chairs the sponsors and souvenir committee and Ms Juanita Monteiro is the chairperson for the concluding ceremony. Indian First Secretary Abdul Khaliq chairs the publicity committee.

The festival will be officially launched tonight (Wednesday, March 7) by Ambassador Arun K. Budhiraja at the IAC, Funaitees. A sampling of some of the cultural events to come will be in the shape of dancer Aruna Subramanian, who will present a one-hour Bharat Natyan and Kuchipudi show.

Ethnicity

Aruna has been invited to perform at the launching ceremony. The organisers are trying to fly in noted names on the Indian cultural scene to perform during the festival. As the final list has not been prepared, their names were not announced. But on the cards are cultural troupes led by Birju

Maharaj and Shankar Anand, to name two. Artists from India will perform on May 2 and 3. Local artists will perform throughout the festival.

Everything ethnic Indian is the theme of the mela — from food, clothes, jewellery to culture, arts and sport. A friendly match by an Indian cricket team is also on the cards. The prettiest Indian girl will be named Festival Queen. Raffle winners will receive prizes ranging from a Toyota Cressida to smaller, but valuable items.

Indian handicrafts, clothes, jewellery and a variety of items are being specially brought for the stalls, that will be set up during the mela in the IAC auditorium.

Due to this, only about 400 people would be able to attend the cultural shows in the auditorium. To avoid disappointment, the cultural events are being spaced at intervals through the day to accommodate a larger number of people.

On the closing day, the organisers expecting a large turnout, are planning a gala event at one

Traffic signals to be synchronised: Aslawi

Move to alleviate jams

By Lina Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

IN a move designed to alleviate traffic jams and bottle necks in Kuwait, traffic lights will be synchronised on a timing basis, according to Col Saddik Aslawi, Director of Technical Department at the General Traffic Administration (GTA).

In relation to traffic signals situated on intersections, the official said that each signal is programmed in last for up to 50 or 70 seconds in avoid congestion on each side.

Aslawi added that the technical department handles the placing of traffic signals and signs on all roads in co-ordination with the Ministry of Public Works and Municipality. The department is also responsible for traffic markings on the streets, motorways and flyovers.

Replying to a question about speed breakers and dividers, the official said that these obstacles are placed in front of schools, hospitals, and side roads and crowded residential areas. These impediments are designed to slow down speeding cars.

About number plates, Aslawi said that they carry numbers and alphabets. These two figures are designed to avoid duplication of the same plate and to facilitate identification of the driver and the car in case of accidents.

The official said that the inves-



Col Saddik Aslawi

tigation section in the department is responsible for conducting on site investigations of the accident, and assess the cost of damage.

He added that the main work of the traffic engineering section in the department is to help in planning the design of roads, placing traffic lights and mark-

ing the streets in any area in Kuwait. All of this work is implemented with the help of other concerned governmental authorities.

The official concluded that the placing of control cameras in the future on traffic signals would help in detecting violators of traffic lights.

Aviation report

Passenger traffic up 21pc in February

KUWAIT International Airport witnessed a noticeable increase in air transport movement during the last month. A special report published by the General Aviation Department stated that the number of arrivals and departures was 1960 with an increase estimated at 7 per cent compared with the month of February of last year. The number of additional flights arriving and departing were 336 a noticeable increase at 140 per cent compared to Feb 1989. The number of arriving passengers reached 126,570 with a 21 per cent increase than Feb 1989. On the other hand, 99,340 passengers departed from Kuwait during the same month.

Increase

The report explained this increase in passenger movement particularly arrivals is as a result of passengers returning to the country after spending their spring holidays. The arrival of a large number of spectators from neighbouring Gulf states to attend some of the matches during the Gulf Football Tournament is also stated as a reason.

It pointed out that the freight movement continued to rise during February. The incoming freight reached 426,907 kilograms on both organised and additional flights with an increase of 15 per cent compared to Feb 1989. Meanwhile the outgoing freight on organised and additional flights reached 292,717 kilograms. This reflects that the country will witness economic prosperity soon.

Jabriya residents happy with services

JABRIYA is considered one of Kuwait's modern areas where a wide range of nationalities reside. The government has provided the area with many services to make it one of the model areas — particularly as the location has some embassies.

A local daily interviewed a number of Jabriya residents who expressed several views.

Nabeel Hussain described Jabriya as one of Kuwait's civilised and high standard areas providing all residence requirements. He indicated that Jabriya gathers a large number of nationalities who all enjoy high cultural and educational levels which forms the direct reason for having the area very secured.

Regarding services offered by Jabriya Co-operative Society, Nabeel added that good profits have been distributed among society share holders in addition to the fact that it provides shoppers with all requirements. He praised efforts exerted by the society board of directors which evidenced keenness towards answering the needs of residents. He added that Jabriya clinic is also highly motivated towards presenting adequate health services to all residents.

He said that the area has good lighting but, added that Jabriya still lacks afforestation and landscaping in some areas. He called upon the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources to pay more concern to providing the area with trees. He pointed out that some of the

locations in Jabriya have not been cleaned yet from excavation works and added that excavation works in Jabriya seems to be a never ending story. However, he praised the general level of cleanliness and organisation at the area.

Muhammed Ashkanani expressed appreciation to all Jabriya clinic workers for the excellent level of services presented to patients. He added that having more than one doctor during the day and evening periods makes treatment and tests go much faster and without any problems to patients.

Muhammed then talked about Jabriya Police Station stressing the fact that policemen are keen to do their job and provide residents with security and safety. He stressed that the area enjoys high number of security patrols adding that youths living in the area don't cause any form of annoyance to residents.

He praised efforts exerted by Kuwait Municipality and the Ministry of Public Works in organising the area and supervising cleanliness at all times. He also praised the role played by Jabriya residents in planting trees in the area adding more efforts should be put into afforestation, particularly at public parks and locations.

He added that Jabriya is one of the cleanest areas in Kuwait but, still most residents suffer from the over flow of street sewage during the winter season.

Confusion over affiliation

ISP in the news again

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

CONFUSION prevailed yesterday over the affiliation of the International School of Pakistan, which seems to be in the news often over rights of ownership and recognition from time to time.

A press release, issued yesterday by the Embassy of Pakistan, claims that the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Islamabad, "had withdrawn the affiliation of the International School of Pakistan."

The embassy statement claims: "The status of the school is that of a private institution not recognised by the board."

But ISP Principal Syed Tasleem Akbar refuted the claim saying the question of affiliation is being contested in the Lahore High Court, Rawalpindi Bench, and the next hearing is sometime next week.

"The matter is sub-judice and any statement I make will be in contempt of court," said Akbar.

Some 41 ISP students are this year taking the Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) examinations.

The embassy statement says: "The Embassy of Pakistan will not attest any future certificate of the school until there is an agreement on affiliation."

The statement says: "The students appearing from this institution (ISP) in the Secondary School Certificate Examinations now being held are appearing as private candidates and in future the school will not be allowed to forward forms of SSC students either as regular or private students unless a satisfactory agreement is reached with the embassy regarding affiliation of the school which fully safeguards the interests of the Pakistani community."

Akbar insists the students are appearing as "regular candidates."

Roll numbers have been issued and they are taking the exams," he said. He contends that a private student pays a higher fee, must not have attended a school for at least one year and cannot sit for science exams. "Our students are also taking science exams," he said.

The embassy statement advises parents, the

school's "status quo has not changed and they should bear this in mind while planning the educational career of their children."

The Press and Cultural Attache at the Pakistan embassy, Syed Iqbal Hussain, in a telephone interview, claimed that they did not recommend the school for recognition because it does not meet the Federal Board's conditions. They may rescind their decision if the school met those which include decision if the school has proper lab and library and proper accounts. "The ambassador must also be recognised as the chairman of the school board, according to federal rules. But Kuwait education rules prohibit affiliation to any foreign embassy and party."

Akbar contends that the accounts are "properly audited" and offered to give them to the Arab Times. He also said that the school complies with Kuwait's Ministry of Education rules and does not appoint any teacher without their approval. The library and lab were built before the dispute between the school and embassy erupted, and have been upgraded since, he said. Akbar said the school, due to the presence of a large Pakistani student population, would accept the ambassador as its patron.

The dispute over affiliation erupted in 1988, when on the Pakistan embassy recommendation, the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, based in Islamabad, had withdrawn its recognition. The matter was taken to court by the school management. In 1989, a court decision "disposed off" the case, advising both the embassy and school to settle the issue "amicably." ISP students are allowed to sit for exams as "regulars."

As the recognition of schools is renewed annually, a similar problem has occurred because the embassy did not recommend the school for affiliation. The matter was again taken to court, and is now pending a decision.

The hearing due on March 5, has been postponed to next week, Akbar said.

The ISP, which had been affiliated to the London University since its inception in 1975 until 1983, sought the Pakistan federal education board's recognition that year due to pressure from parents.



Polish week

Limanowianie, a cultural troupe from Poland is here in connection with the Polish Trade Week at Mishrif Fair Grounds and the Polish Festival at the Kuwait International Hotel. The group is from the district of Limanowa located in southern Poland. In its programme the group performs melodies and funny folk songs which are characteristic of the region. The ensemble is the winner of numerous national and international contests will be here until March 8.

Emirates in major tourism push

EMIRATES Holidays, the leisure division of the UAE's international airline, is currently involved in two major promotions to increase the already substantial flow of tourists into Dubai and the UAE.

The airline reports "tremendous interest" in the area from European travel agents and tour operators visiting ITB, the world's biggest travel show which is now under way in Berlin. At the same time, Emirates Holidays will

have a strong presence at Holiday 90, the first travel, tourism and leisure exhibition to be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The show opens on March 7 for five days.

A spokesman for Emirates said: "The Saudi market has huge potential and Dubai has a lot to offer visitors from that country. With four services a week to Dubai from Jeddah and Riyadh, the airline is well positioned to take advantage of the market."

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

HUMAN history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe — H. G. Wells, British author.

Holding on to power
Leaders defy democracy

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast. [AP]: West African dictators are slashing salaries, firing cabinet ministers and muzzling protests as they cling to power amid a crescendo of demands for democracy.

"The great winds carrying democracy... that have triumphed in the countries of Eastern Europe will not shake the coconut trees in Africa," commented Gabon's national Gabonese daily newspaper.

Gabon's President Omar Bongo on Saturday postponed election scheduled for April to September.

He said he needs time to push through legislation dissolving his Democratic Party and replacing it with a party "open to a range of political ideas."

Strikes that continued in the past week, causing a three-day closure of the international airport and disrupting power and communications lines, indicate Gabon does not think the move goes far enough.

A new challenge came from the banned opposition Movement for National Redress, which held its first congress on Saturday and denounced Bongo's move.

Confident

Bongo told a French television station on Saturday that "if the Gabonese no longer have confidence in me, I will go" but only via elections at which only one party can field candidates.

The leaders of Togo, Ivory Coast and Niger have tried to suppress dissent by giving in on small issues.

People voting in a general election on Sunday in Togo had a choice of 188 candidates for 77 National Assembly seats.

All belong to the Togolese People's Rally, the only legal party. But, for the first time, candidates were not elected by the party in a move Gen. Gnassingbe Eyadema touted as a shift toward democracy.

Eyadema banned all political opposition after coming to power in 1967, saying that pluralism would aggravate inter-tribal tensions.

President Felix Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast uses the same argument to counter demands for democracy in his country, where a general strike has been called for Monday.

Student strikers demanding he resign because of alleged corruption and siphoning of state coffers during his 30-year rule were joined on Friday by hundreds of civil servants and other workers demonstrating in at least six towns.

Houphouët-Boigny has given in to lesser demands from university students, changing his education minister and halving costs of student lodging and board.

But the real issues are calls for democracy provoked by an economic crisis that has forced the government to propose cutting salaries of all but the lowest-paid civil servants by between 15 and 40 per cent, and deducting 10 per cent of salaries of private sector employees.

Confronted with an additional opposition from usually docile trade union leaders, the ruling Democratic party announced it is indefinitely postponing a national council meeting to discuss the proposed austerity measures that was to take place on Monday.

Money

Slumping commodity prices have left the Ivorian, Benin and Gabonese governments scrambling to find money to pay their employees.

Governments are responding by cutting salaries of civil servants who, in Gabon, have not been paid for up to three months and, in Ivory Coast, have had salaries frozen for eight years.

Some strikers have won. The 1,200 employees of the Transgabonese Railroad said they would return to work on Monday after the company's owners — the government and French and Italian companies — scrapped a 15 per cent pay cut introduced in December.

Zaire announced Saturday it was halving the salaries of cabinet ministers and other high-ranking political appointees, saying its leaders "must set an example in austerity measures."

Niger's military leader Ali Saibou fired four cabinet ministers on Friday to appease protesters angered by the police killing of three student demonstrators last month. Students say 14 people were killed.

Saibou still is negotiating with striking students, university professors, doctors and other government workers demanding higher salaries and better living and working conditions.

The government says the strikers' demands are excessive in one of the world's poorest nations. Strikers ask where the money comes from for lavish lifestyles enjoyed by government officials.

Pressures from strikers and protesters refusing to shoulder additional austerity measures have forced one West African leader to concede defeat.

Sobbed

Benin's Brig. Gen. Mathieu Kerekou, who has ruled since a 1972 coup, sobbed as he gave in last week to demands he surrender political power to delegates at a conference of national dialogue called after an October coup attempt.

Kerekou had tried to stay in power by renouncing Marxism-Leninism and its economics that have bankrupted the nation.

The conference appointed as Prime Minister Nicéphore Soglo, a former World Bank official favoured by Western creditors, and gave him a mandate to form an interim government to lead the nation to multiparty elections in January.

Kerekou retains his title as president and chief of the armed forces. But none of his advisers can belong to the new cabinet and he can contest election only if he resigns.

On Friday, about 5,000 students and unemployed university graduates whose protesters helped force his abdication from power marched in Cotonou, the Beninois capital, praising Kerekou for giving in without bloodshed. "Like a phoenix, President Kerekou's popularity has risen from the ashes," Radio Cotonou reported.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1573 — Peace of Constantinople ends war between Turkey and Venice.
- 1692 — Maximilian, elector of Bavaria, is installed as governor and captain-general of Spanish Netherlands.
- 1793 — France declares war on Spain, and Spanish forces invade Roussillon and Navarre.
- 1820 — Spain's King Ferdinand II is forced to restore the constitution of 1812 and end the inquisition.
- 1821 — Neapolitan rebels are crushed at Rieti by Austrians.
- 1876 — Egyptian forces are defeated at Gura by Ethiopians.
- 1935 — Restoration of Saar to Germany marks beginning of German expansion.
- 1936 — Germany violates Treaty of Versailles by occupying demilitarized zone in the Rhineland.
- 1941 — British troops invade Italian-occupied Abyssinia (Ethiopia) in World War II.
- 1945 — British 14th Army enters Mandalay in Burma in World War II.
- 1951 — Premier Ali Razmara of Iran is assassinated.
- 1956 — Unrest, fomented by Stalinist faction, breaks out in Soviet Georgia.
- 1968 — United States and Soviet Union pledge to protect all weaker nations from nuclear blackmail and aggression.
- 1977 — Saudi Arabia announces it will give \$1 billion in aid to black Africa.
- 1988 — British soldiers and police fatally shoot three Irish Republican Army guerrillas after they plant car bomb set to go off during military parade in British colony of Gibraltar.
- 1989 — China declares martial law in Tibetan capital of Lhasa following three days of anti-Chinese rioting.

Cost of support staggering
US finds democracy dear

WASHINGTON, (Reuter): The United States is discovering an ugly fact of life in the late 20th century: democracy can be expensive.

After Nicaragua voted in a pro-Western government in elections last month, one top State Department official wondered aloud whether there would be enough money in the US budget to support all the nations that have turned away from communism and embraced democratic government in the last year.

"Is democracy too expensive?" the official mused during a briefing with reporters. "Can we afford to help these democracies? Can we afford not to?"

Democracies

The emerging democracies of Eastern Europe and Central America have turned towards the United States as they reject communism, expecting enthusiastic support from Washington to build their new governments.

But US foreign aid policies forged over four decades of cold war, with the basic aim of resisting the threatened advance of communism, creak a bit when applied to the changing world.

With even the Soviet Union rejecting such heretofore communist concepts as a one-party political system, the threat seems to be eroding.

"We get the question all the time: Who is the enemy?" Secretary of State James Baker said in Senate budget committee testimony recently as he defended in 1991 foreign aid budget.

In fact, only about 1.3 per cent — \$14.9 billion of the trillion-dollar 1991 budget is set aside for foreign aid. That includes just \$300 million for Eastern Europe.

US foreign aid spending is now at its lowest point as a percentage of the gross national product. A much bigger slice of GNP went to foreign aid at the peak of the cold war.

But the problem is not merely money, according to Jack Hamilton, who writes on foreign policy for the World Bank.

"The whole premise of our foreign aid has been a cold war argument," he said.

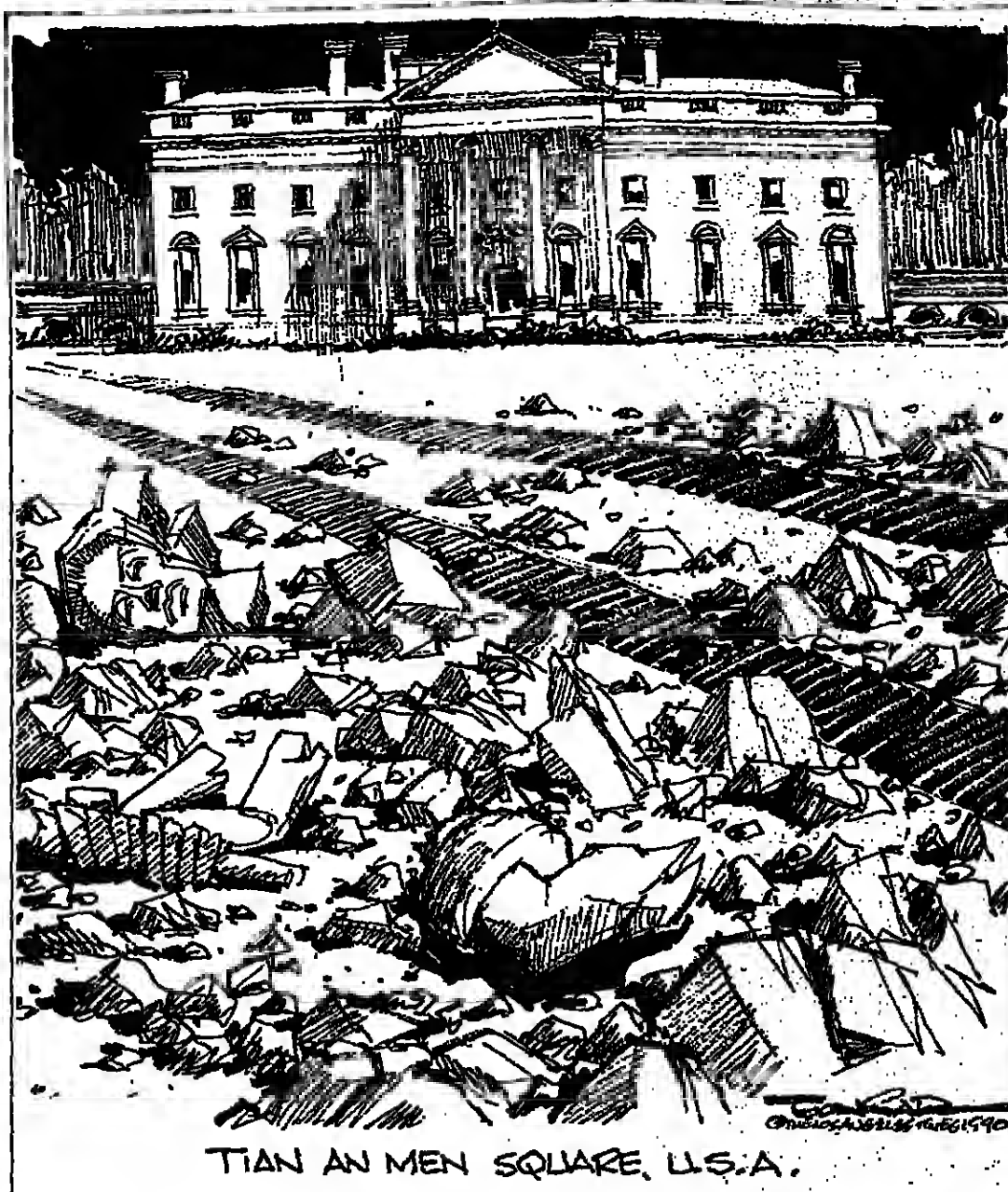
Interests

"If we had argued in the beginning that development of countries was in the interests of the American public, then today we'd have even more reason to provide aid," Hamilton said.

"Having made the argument in cold war terms, and the cold war being over, we've actually made it more difficult to convince people of the need."

Current US foreign aid policy was created just after World War II, when it was deemed important to aid countries that might turn communist. One part of this policy spawned the Marshall Plan to help rebuild Europe after the war.

During the cold war period, roughly 1946 to 1988, the United States gave \$343.4 billion (nearly \$975 billion in 1990) in foreign aid, according to Larry Nowels, who tracks such aid for the Library of Congress.



Over the entire period, the top 10 recipients were Israel, Egypt, South Korea, Turkey, India, Pakistan, Britain, France, Greece and Taiwan. By 1990, the list had changed to include Poland, El Salvador, Panama and Honduras, showing a slight redefinition of national security concerns, Nowels said. The fiscal 1991 budget, now being debated in

Washington, provides relatively small increases for countries which have recently chosen democracy.

For example, the \$300 million aid for all of Eastern Europe being heavily promoted by the administration is not much more than the current budget for just Poland and Hungary.

Palace found after revolution

BUCHAREST, (Reuter): A forgotten palace, secretly restored by executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, has been rediscovered in the heart of Bucharest and looks set to become one of the gems of Central European architecture.

For seven years thousands of craftsmen worked to restore Cotroceni Palace, all of them sworn to secrecy because Ceausescu was also building himself a luxury residence there.

But the secret was breached when the dictator was overthrown and executed in a violent revolution last December.

The palace Ceausescu had rebuilt at enormous cost, mainly to show off to visiting foreign dignitaries, is soon to be opened to the public.

Cotroceni Palace is a mixture of styles dating back to the 19th century. Its greatest attraction for tourists, however, is likely to be the grandiose wing completed three years ago for Ceausescu.

With all the workers sworn to secrecy, the president had one of Romania's most famous churches and a monastery destroyed to make space for the wing.

Unlike his private homes, which he crammed with tasteless and expensive hodge-podge, the wing is a faithful representation of a 19th century castle, furnished exquisitely to match the other two parts of Cotroceni.

Ceausescu in fact only visited the finished wing once, when he held a birthday party for himself here in 1987 for a few hours," palace curator Cristina Dan told Reuters. She said Ceausescu only actually saw two rooms.

One of them was the 50-metre (160-foot) high ceiling.

Although they never slept in them, private apartments awaited Ceausescu and his wife Elena, the bathroom walls built with marble shaved so thin that light shines through them.

The dressing room intended for Ceausescu's clothes is built on two floors, and his private office is an imposing salon with a secret door for his secretary to use.

Fled

On the desk he would one day have used, museum curators have stopped the diary at Dec 22, 1989, the day Ceausescu fled Bucharest in a helicopter as crowds bayed for his blood.

Curators watched with amusement as a visitor pulled aside a curtain near the president's office to reveal a 100-seat theatre, a replica of a full-sized theatre with plush seats and a balcony with two chairs, where the Ceausescus could sit in Napoleonic splendour.

Despite its grandeur, Dan, who was sworn to secrecy about her work during the Ceausescu years,

said the new wing lacked the atmosphere of the other two wings of Cotroceni where the presence of Romania's former royal rulers could still be felt.

"This part has no soul. I hope no one ever lives in it," she said, leading the way into the original palace.

Wallachian Prince Serban Cantacuzino built a church and monastery in Cotroceni woods on the outskirts of Bucharest in gratitude after sheltering there from attackers in 1683.

French architect Paul Gottereau built a stylish palace near the monastery in the 19th century, forming a three-sided building with the church in the middle.

Crown Prince Ferdinand lived in the palace with his wife Princess Maria at the start of the 20th century. The monarchy was abolished after World War II when Romania became a communist state.

In the 1950s the palace was handed over to the Young Pioneers, the Romanian communist youth organisation.

The entire palace was redecorated, the fine furniture shipped off to other parts of the country and ornate walls and ceilings covered in white plaster.

Ceausescu's moods swung violently, and in 1980, despite an avowed hatred of royalty, he ordered the palace to be restored to its former splendour, with a new wing for his own use.

Letters to the editor

Arabic course

SIR: In reference to your article, "2,500 students for continuous education," (Feb 19, 1990), additional information should be provided for the reader who is considering enrolment at the Society Service and Continuous Education Centre at the University of Kuwait.

Many people in Kuwait are anxious to learn the Arabic language. Not only is it important to function daily in a Arab society, but the University of Kuwait teaches students how to read and write classical Arabic, enabling the learner to read newspaper, books, and most important, the Holy Quran.

I am an excellent student and have completed three levels in Arabic with a 98, 97 and 95 respectively. However, I am deeply disappointed by the "politics" of trying to continue my studies. Although promised by three professionals in the Centre that the fourth level class would be held at 5 p.m. I registered, paid the fees, and received my timetable for 7 p.m. Upon conversing with these professionals, I was reassured three additional times by each person. Nevertheless, I was forced to drop the class.

You see, I am a mother of an infant and a toddler, teach full time, and belong to a professional association. I am a Muslim and plan to live my life in Kuwait and continuing my Arabic studies is very important. The emphasis here is not on my case or several of my friends that were forced to take similar actions. The issue is that the very name of this Centre — Society Service and Continuous Education Centre is misleading. The "society" of non-Arabic speakers continues to look forward to receiving the benefits the Society Service and Continuous Education Centre at the University of Kuwait has to offer as a reputable institution for higher learning. I can only try again next semester.

Disappointed.
(Name & address supplied)

Lasting peace

SIR: If an alien from another planet were to visit our planet — Earth, what image of our Earth and man would he carry back? "A planet of water, from whose womb sprout diverse and wondrous life, controlled, plundered and polluted and set on fire by a highly intelligent, egotistical and fearful species of animal kingdom-man." Is that the image which man that God

made would like that alien to carry? Surely not! And yet the whole world in its breadth and length is raging with wars. Africa, South America, North-East Asia, Central America, South-East Asia, all are engaged in armed conflicts. The Palestinian's claim for a home state in the Punjab state of India. Sikh separatists' guns keep belching out fire. The Afghan problem is far from over. Cambodia's civil war has consumed 1-2 million lives. The Chadian rebels, People's Liberation Army of South Sudan, Savimbi's Unita guerrillas in Angola, Contra rebels in Nicaragua, Tamil insurgents in Sri Lanka, Communist New People's Army in the Philippines, Irish guerrillas, Lebanese bloodbath, Kampuchean problem, Kashmir deadlock — all make up a sad tale of human plight.

The bizarre scene defies every attempt at formulating a casual theory without any internal contradictions. And yet there is a common thread running through all these conflicts and disputes.

All warring groups whether racial, religious or ethnic, seek nothing but political power. The political power brings economic control which in turn ensures a better chance of survival, especially when the individuals and their aspirations are "limited" and the material resources are "limited".

Each believes easily what he fears and what he desires. — La Fontaine. Lack of power breeds fear of extinction and from this fear is born the desire for power. Thus desire for power is an internal necessity born out of imaginary or tangible fears. While one's acquisition of power lessens one's fear, it at the same time depletes another's power and heightens another's fear. Hence the ultimate cause of man's conflicts is a blind desire for power stemming from not entirely unfounded fears and fierce competition for survival.

Most of the wars that engulf the world today are taking place in the Third World. The Third World — once the hub of human civilisations — thrives on agro-economy. After ten thousand years of agriculture based economy and 1-2 centuries of industry based economy, the world has entered into what can be termed as superindustrialism.

Agriculture now employs a very small group of economically active people in industrialised nations. As the modes of production change, these people are expected to take up new functions in new economic institutions. The old world is fast walking up into the age of industrialisation and technology. Some societies transform themselves technologically and economically more rapidly than others.

Further, different sectors within the same society

exhibit different rates of change — the disparity which William Ogburn labelled as "Cultural Lag." Vast populations, which cannot keep up with the pace of change, lag behind as static unproductive pockets and impede the progressive productive sectors. From these uneven rates of change in different sectors of society arise social stresses and frictions. These frictions are further accentuated by increasing population pressures.

The so-called racial, religious or ideological groups pitted against each other are in reality economic groups with common economic interests, battling for political-economic control. Are not then most of the Third World conflicts the result of huge populations, unproductive millions and a consequent jagged economic growth?

A social unit of fear-stricken human beings, erected on economical imbalances is bound to be politically unstable. Unless man resolves to abate his deep-seated fears, unless mankind is cut to a manageable size, unless a healthy economic order replaces the prevailing sick one, there can never be a lasting peace.

Dr Arvind Raina,
Salmitia.

Clarification

SIR: As I infer from certain questions and comments of some of my friends, my name is being confused with that of Dr Haider Mehdi whose writings have appeared in the Letters to the Editor column of the Arab Times recently. The confusion has apparently arisen from certain common elements in the two names "Dr" and "Haider" and probably also from the fact of association with the same organisation (though different departments), even though I never use the name of my organisation in any writings in my personal capacity. I hope this letter of mine will clarify that whatever appears under the aforesaid name is not from me. I am a different person.

Dr Azimushshan Haider,
Kuwait.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Art Buchwald

Sending paper by telephone

THE most important new word in the English language is fax. It is a method of sending paper by telephone. For example, if I want to shoot you a clipping from this newspaper, I put it into my fax machine and it is transmitted to your fax machine in seconds.

Because the United States shuffles more paper than any other country on the planet, the fax machine has changed the way we deal with problems.

This is all you hear in offices these days: "Will you fax me that report?... I'll fax you my objections and then you fax everything to the client in San Francisco."

Trouble

The trouble with faxing papers is that people judge how hard you are working by the amount of faxing that you do. In most offices, those who only fax every hour are thought to be less productive than those who fax every 15 minutes. John O'Connor is one of the great faxers of Washington. He has a fax in the office, one at home and on his car. During his lunch hour he thinks nothing of faxing the US budget to a friend in Singapore.

"You were an early faxer before it became popular. Does it discourage you that everybody is doing it now?" I asked him.

"The more the merrier," he replied. "Don't forget, it takes two to fax. Excuse me, I have to fax an anniversary card to my wife."

"Does she mind getting her anniversary greetings by fax machine?"

"Why should she? It's on her desk right away."

"Is there a knack to faxing?"

Faxer

"Like everything else, there are good faxers and bad ones. A good faxer knows exactly how to insert the paper so that the print comes out nice and clean at the other end. Some people are born faxers — lawyers, for example. They can serve two clients on two different telephone lines at the same time, and charge them both the full fee. Doctors are starting fax throat cultures to each other, and people are even sending love letters on the machine."

"Why?"

"When you're in love you want the whole Bell system to know it."

"Do some people in your office fax more than others?"

"Damn right they do, and it's costing us a bundle. There is a guy here who faxes all the baseball scores to his bookie in Las Vegas. We have a woman who transmits Ann Landers' column to everyone in her aerobics class. We're looking at an electronic revolution that will change our lives. Today we're faxing paper — someday we could be faxing people."

Sending

"You mean we'll be sending people by telephone?"

"It's well within the realm of possibility. The world is getting smaller thanks to the fax machines. Just we communicated via Morse code, then by voice and now paper. Tomorrow we may place our kids in fax machines and send them to camp."

All the time O'Connor was talking to me he was inserting memoranda into one machine and ripping off messages from the other one.

"The trick," he said, "is to fax more outgoing material than you take in."

"How do you do that?" I wanted to know.

"Fax everybody. My greatest moment as a faxer was when I sent an entire manuscript to a publisher I had never met. I tied up his line for nine hours because there was no way he could turn his machine off."

Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

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Bronze Buddha

Symbol of peace for Hong Kong

HONGKONG (UPI) — Seated on a 36-ton throne of giant bronze lotus leaves, the world's largest outdoor Buddha gazes reassuringly over Hong Kong, a symbol of faith and peace for the troubled British colony due to revert to Beijing in seven years.

Nearly complete, the 108-foot (33m) bronze Buddha dwarfs the nearby Po Lin monastery, an austere domicile for some 100 Buddhist monks on Hong Kong's outlying Lantau Island.

On a clear day, the 277-ton giant can be seen from China, 50 miles (80 km) from Po Lin. The giant Buddha was the brainchild of the Rev. Chi Wai, a soft-spoken Buddhist priest who has resided in the Po Lin monastery for most of his 53 years.

"I came up with the idea about 20 years ago," Chi said. "I wanted the Buddha to be for Hong Kong, what the Statue of Liberty was to the United States."

Structurally, the Buddha resembles the 305-foot (93m) Statue of Liberty in New York harbour. Both were constructed of a steel frame covered by a bronze skin and rustproofed inside with the same kind of paint.

Chi said the Buddha's right hand, with fingers stretched toward the heavens and palm turned outward, symbolised compassion and the relieving of pain. The left hand, resting palm up on the Buddha's crossed legs, bestows blessing and happiness.

The Po Lin monks raised the \$7.69 million needed to build the statue through world-wide donations and said the Buddha was intended to be a sign of peace and religious freedom in Hong Kong after 1997, when China regains sovereignty over the British colony.

The Buddha was constructed to last an eternity, but China has pledged Hong Kong can retain its free-wheeling capitalist system for only 50 years after the 1997 transition.

Many of Hong Kong's 5.7 million people doubt their freedoms will endure even the five decades. Following China's harsh crackdown on mainland democracy advocates in June 1989, the colony's already touchy relations with Beijing soured.

Since June, China has taken an increasingly hardline stance on Hong Kong, limiting democratic reforms in the colony and branding its liberal leaders subversive.

The moves have heightened a confidence crises in the territory, and many people — mainly middle-class professionals — are fleeing for safer abodes at a rate of more than 1,000 per week.

Although the Buddha project had been in the planning stages since the early 1970s, actual construction did not begin until 1986.

The process involved some 2,000 specialists who conducted stress tests and wind tunnel experiments on models of the statue to make sure the finished product could withstand the territory's slashing autumn typhoons and notoriously hot, humid summers.

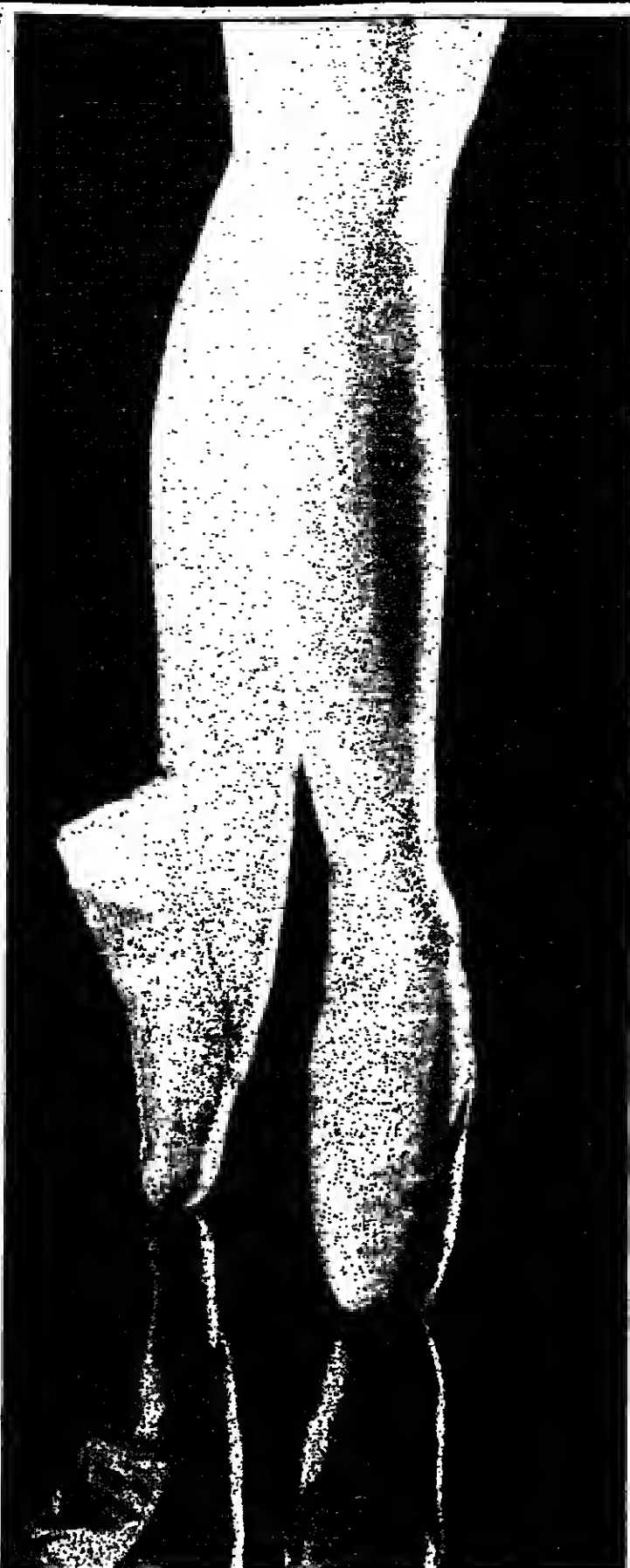
The statue's bronze skin comprises 242 separate pieces, each cast at China's Nanjing Chenguan Machinery Works and toted by boat from Nanjing to Hong Kong throughout the summer.

Workers on Lantau then had to cart each piece of the colossal jigsaw puzzle up the threadlike roads that lead to the remote mountain monastery.

"It took 30 workers about 10 hours to move the three pieces making up the head (of the Buddha) to the monastery," said Evelyn Tam, a Buddhist who handles public relations for the monastery. "The pieces were so heavy they had to use a special crane to lift them. The operation blocked the road so they had to do it at night."

Although the statue itself was completed in late 1989 and visitors already average about 1,000 per week, Tam said work on the three-tiered base will continue for more than a year.

She said the base would be open to the public in early 1991 and would house a display of photographs taken during the statue's construction and cultural works from Hong Kong, China and Taiwan.



Ballet shoes are made of satin, cloth, paper, leather and glue

Men make all the toe shoes ballerinas wear Dancing on your toes

By Christopher Andreae

LONDON and GLASGOW:

Rita Keenan never became a professional ballet dancer. She trained until she was 16 but went in for nursing instead. It was her daughter who became a professional dancer. Today, however, Rita owns a shop called "Pas de Deux." No prize for guessing it specializes in dance wear — leotards, sequins — and, of course, toe shoes.

Rita recalls vividly her own first pair of toe shoes, also called pointe shoes. She was 11 and tremendously proud to have "graduated" to pointe work — dancing on the extreme tip of the toes.

But in those days, in Glasgow, the only place to buy ballet shoes was "up a stair in Sauchiehall Street," she laughs. "Theatrical Hire, I think it was called." They didn't fit ballet shoes — they just slapped on the counter whatever size a girl asked for: average shoes, with short vamps so that toes were likely to move all over the place, and rub unmercifully. "I ... went up into my bedroom with them and danced and danced — until the blood was running right through! When my mother saw them she was so angry she threw them out of the window. I had to run down into the garden to rescue them!"

So Rita feels quite strongly about toe shoes being fitted scrupulously. Her shop stocks several makes, with an extraordinary range of sizes and widths and subtly different variations on the stock design.

Toe shoes continue — as they have for a century and more — to be handmade. They are essentially slippers made of satin, cotton, hessian (like hurlap), paper, and flour-paste glue, with leather backs and insoles made of cardboard or leather. It has a vamp into which the dancer's toes fit, "the snigger, the better," says Rita. And at the toe is the "block", a small, flat platform shaped out of layers of hessian, paper, and paste.

Symbols

If there is one manufacturer of pointe shoes better known than any other, it's Freed of London. Rita thinks very highly of Freed shoes — though she also praises the Italian make Porcelli for "excellent, really beautiful" shoes. Also "muscling in," as Rita puts it, on Freed's supremacy, is another, British company — Gamba. To Rita, even Freed's "rejects" are better than the best made by any other company. And she sells Freed seconds to students — their price is attractive, at £9 (£15 for perfect ones).

Freed has one of its factories in Hackney, East London. The company is 60 years old, founded by Frederick Freed who originally advertised in the window of his shop that he would be "able to fit any foot," one of his earliest customers: Dame Margot Fonteyn.

The Cypriot-born George Gorgiou is today one of Freed's approximately 40 "makers", and he followed in his father's footsteps as a maker of Fonteyn.

Each maker has his own stamp, so that a dancer, once she has arrived at a shoe that suits her (often a long process), can re-order shoes from "B-maker" or "Castle-maker." George has two symbols — an "H" and a rectangle. Does he make for any well-known ballerinas now? His answer is diplomatic: "I don't know — they're all famous!"

He may well be right — the names of particular dancers are written on each of their shoes. Dancers from the Pacific Northwest Ballet, New York City Ballet, National Ballet of Canada, London's own Royal Ballet, Dance Theatre of Harlem.

"Two-thirds of our production are 'specials'; that is, not 'stock' shoes," says Patrick O'Neill, director of publicity for Freed, taking a reporter on a factory tour, which (in spite of a recent takeover by a Japanese company), doesn't look as though it has changed for decades.

Ballet-shoe making — at least at Freed — is male-dominated. All the shoes are for women (men almost never dance on pointe), and all their makers are men. Some of the intermediary steps and the finishing are done by women. O'Neill says: "Not many people consider ballet-shoe making as a career. It is a manual skill, and requires a lot of physical strength." George says it uses your elbows — "and your fingers, your fingers all the time."

He has been making shoes at Freed for 25 years.

There isn't a quick turnover of

the makers — once they're in, they stay. And problems occur when one retires. "We always say that if a man dies, he certainly has to be back in the afternoon," O'Neill comments. Some 500 ballerinas may have to be transferred to another maker, and each ballerina may wear out between 40-90 pairs a year. Freed recommends the "nearest," but it's not always simple.

O'Neill crouches down suddenly to point out the interior of a long oven where, at one stage, the shoes dry for a night so that the paste in the block can harden to enable further shaping. Later, they will require a further 10 days' natural drying.

It takes one pair of shoes four or five weeks to go through the factory. A woman worker marks the height of the vamp with a ballpoint on shoe after shoe, and another shapes them with scissors, and yet another sews in the drawstring. (The dancers themselves always sew on their own ribbons.) They are handled by many more hands than the "makers" — so O'Neill describes them as "very handmade."

There is some machinery, but nothing which seems much more elaborate than a sewing machine. A ticket moves through the factory with each dancer's batch of shoes, with her detailed specifications, and any small changes she wants — and eighth of an inch more on the wing-vamp, or extra length at the heel, perhaps.

It can take up to six months for an order of shoes to be met by the

company. One maker may have 200 dancers who prefer his shoes, so each has to wait his turn. If Rita Keenan in Glasgow has any criticism of Freed it is that they are slower than ever at supplying shoes.

Wendy Dawson, of Scottish Ballet, agrees. She prefers Gamba, and tells you so. She is a dancer and she also orders and organises all the pointe shoes for this company of 40 dancers. They "haven't got two girls that wear the same shoe," she says. Many wear Freed shoes. The director thinks they look best. And even the fiercely anti-Freed Wendy has to admit that they do "have the run of the market."

Patrick O'Neill had described how dancers thrack their shoes on concrete to soften them up. I ask Wendy if this is a myth. Some dancers do it, some don't, she says. She demonstrates the process on one unwitting shoe, and vigorously bends it back so there is an awful cracking sound. "It loosens the toe, to give you a better point," she laughs, "and if the back is made more pliable, you get a nice arch to the foot."

Also, if a shoe is too hard, it can hurt and can be very noisy. "Most of us break in our shoes during rehearsals — from 10 to 5:30 each day — ready for the evening's 2 1/2-hour performance," Wendy says. "The thing is, that a shoe that is broken in is molded to the shape of your foot."

"It's really tragic," had been O'Neill's wry comment, "what dancers do to our shoes."

The Christian Science Monitor



George Gorgiou at work making ballet shoes at Freed of London

FAMILY DOCTOR

BY DR ALAN BRUCKHEIM

INFLAMMATORY DISEASE TENDS TO STRIKE OLDER WOMEN

QUESTION: I'm an American living in France. A friend living in Daytona, Fla., suggested that I write to you in reference to a sickness named "Maladie de Horton," which I have. Would you be kind enough to give me the details of this sickness?

ANSWER: Another reader also wrote: I would appreciate any information you could give me on the condition called "giant cell arteritis." A 70-year-old woman diagnosed as having this condition has been given very little information as to the prognosis, complications and treatment.

Answer: At first glance, it would seem that I have two different diseases to deal with here, but the fact is that they are one and the same.

Perhaps better known in this country as "temporal arteritis," both Horton's Disease and giant cell arteritis are just other names for a chronic, generalised, inflammatory disease of the branches of the aortic arch, principally found in the temporal and occipital arteries.

The name "giant cell" comes from the appearance of the affected tissues when examined under the microscope, where giant cells may be seen in great profusion. The beginnings of the disease

may be either acute or gradual, and frequently seem to imitate a viral or flu-like disease, with low-grade fever, aches and pains, severe weakness, loss of appetite and weight loss.

Usually there are some associated muscle aches and pains, in the neck, shoulders and hip or pelvic area. There is a characteristically severe throbbing or piercing headache over the temporal area on one or both sides, and the area may be tender, red and swollen. About half the patients have visual symptoms ranging from blurred vision, double vision to loss of sight.

Rarely seen in individuals under the age of 50, it is most frequent in women over the age of 80. Although no specific cause has been identified, research and clinical data show the probability of an autoimmune reaction is likely.

Apart from the classical signs and symptoms, the red cell sedimentation rate (sed rate) is markedly elevated, hot in view of the length and importance of the therapy a tissue biopsy should be obtained to make the diagnosis. As soon as the diagnosis is suspected, however, high doses of corticosteroids (such as prednisone) should be administered, as much as 60 milligrams a day until the symptoms

subside, sometimes in just a few days, and the sed rate returns to normal (usually from two to four weeks). Such prompt and high dosage therapy can do much to prevent visual loss or blindness.

Therapy with smaller doses may continue for two years or longer, and patients should be checked regularly with monitoring of the sed rate to detect early signs of possible relapses, which frequently occur.

QUESTION: I am sure that there are many simple home cures that are tested by time and that could do as much for sickness as the ones you mention. Why don't you include these, so that people could make their own choices, rather than buy expensive drugs at the store?

ANSWER: Whenever I do get some advice from my readers about treatments they have successfully used, I'm happy to include them in the column, but the truth is I don't know too many such "folk" cures that work. If you, or any of my readers do have knowledge of such treatments that they wish to pass on to me, I would be happy to share them with all my readers. I only ask that they be as specific as possible so that I may do some research, too.

Idol gossip and rumours pursue rock star

Bad boy Billy Idol says he's been misunderstood

Rock star Billy Idol is used to bearing bad-mouthed gossip about himself.

After all, he's been at the centre of drugs scandals linked with dozens of beautiful girls and became one of pop's top wild cats.

But even he was surprised when he woke one morning and found that he was dead, according to one American paper.

"The stories have gone from me dying of AIDS to having my blood changed somewhere and I was at home all the time. The New York Post even said I was dead. They like things to be explosive in America, and something like 'Billy Idol Is Dead' is much better than saying he's alive and well and quietly working on his music."

Idol gossip and inventive rumours end to follow Billy about. Stardom has put his life under constant scrutiny — but plain William Broad, as he was born, wouldn't have it any other way.

He changed his name to the more rock star sounding Billy Idol in the mid-70s when punk emerged.

He explains: "Initially I did it to poke fun at people like Rod Stewart and Mick Jagger. But it was very bad for me to be nasty and dirty and horrible. That's why I was Billy Idol. I wasn't rotten or evil."

As the singer with Generation X — one of the first British punk bands — it wasn't long before Idol began living up to his name. Even though the group only had limited success — King Rocker was its only British Top Ten hit — Idol quickly found that his peroxide hair and stunning good looks were having a great impact on the opposite sex.

Stories

That was the start of the stories about his active sex life. And they are still continuing to this day.

Two years ago, Idol was taken to court by a girl who claimed he hit her because she refused to have sex with him after a concert he had given in New York.

Idol, of course, said it was all a pack of lies.

"She just brought the charges against me because she wanted to be in the papers," he maintained. "The truth is I didn't want to have sex with her and that's what upset her. She

thought it was on the cards because I had been friendly."

"But the trouble with some woman is immediately you're friendly with them, they think you're their boyfriend."

Yet Idol has succeeded in giving the impression to more than just a few women. In the past 12 months alone, his name has been linked with a variety of "partners".

First he was said to have fallen for the charms of Anna LaCaze, the 23-year-old singer with American group Cock Robin. Months later he took another singer, Anita Chellam, on a holiday to Majorca with his parents. Then he sneaked away from her to spend time with his ex-girlfriend, the former Hot Gossip dancer Perri Lister.

Having split up after six years of being together, the couple have now struck up their romance again — but not before Idol made the headlines with yet another attractive young lady.

He and American model Grace Hattersley were stopped in New York during a crackdown on drugs. Idol was found to have a small plastic bag of cocaine in his hand, which Hattersley allegedly admitted was hers.

She was furious that, following the incident, Idol stopped seeing her, but not half as angry as superstar Madonna is supposed to have been on the night that Idol stood her up after arranging to meet her for a date.

Madonna had gone backstage to congratulate Billy after a show he played in Los Angeles last May, and he asked her to meet him at a trendy nightclub later in the evening. After waiting a full hour, constantly looking at her watch and asking at reception whether Idol had arrived yet, she stormed off into the night. Idol claimed that he had forgotten about the meeting.

He has taken great pains to appear more reliable with Perri, and stood up onstage recently to a flood of thousands of fans to declare his love for her after their year-long split.

He startled the audience at one of his American concerts by stopping the show to solemnly announce: "There is only one girl in Billy Idol's life and she is Perri Lister."

It was slightly ironic that during that par-

ticular performance, Idol has been singing his current worldwide hit, *Sweet Sixteen*, a song it was claimed he wrote last year about another love affair.

While he and Perri were separated, Idol apparently met a beautiful 16-year-old girl in Chicago. "They met at a New York nightclub," one of Idol's "best friends" was reported as saying.

"They had a great time until she eventually confessed to her age and called off the relationship to go back to high school."

His wayward love life now behind him, Idol is determined to be viewed as more than just an outrageous rocker in the future.

"I can be more than just a rebel with a sneer," he says. "I can be more than just someone who wiggles his hips a bit and then goes off. I want to show people that I'm not just a rock and roll thing. I'm human being."

"People walk around outside my gigs with placards saying 'Billy Idol is a Satanist' and 'Billy Idol is The Next Anti-Christ', but the songs I write support love and beauty and gorgeousness."

"I know that people would rather read about the wild man of rock, but music isn't always crazy and wild. It's satisfying and Luscious, it's a whole good feeling that makes you feel coded."

Which is far from the way Idol felt as a youngster when he was trying to break into the music scene. His father, who runs a tool hire business, was always opposed to the idea — yet Idol says he owes his passionate love of music to him.

Terms

"He was my biggest influence," he admits. "Because he hated music. It's great to have someone around you who really hates what you like. Because my father didn't believe in music, that proved it was something worth doing. It was due to him that I decided to persevere with my dreams of being a performer."

"I wanted desperately to prove to him that what I wanted to do wasn't worthless — and that I would amount to something — but we used to have the most almighty rows."

"I remember when I was about 14, we fell out because he didn't like the length of my hair. As a

result of that, we didn't speak to each other for two years."

Happily, Idol is now back on friendly terms with his father, also called Bill.

"These days, my dad is impressed by what I've done," Idol adds. "I got very alienated from his way of life when I was younger, but now I'm in a position to show him why."

"I am rediscovering my parents, and they're rediscovering me — and it's a great time. They're 60 and I'm 31, and I'm finding out who my dad is again. He's much bigger man than I thought."

Idol has now released four solo albums — the last two have sold 10 million worldwide — and had several international hit singles.

Idol himself admits to being surprised at the success. "When I joined the Punk Band Chelsea, and then went on to form Generation X, it was all a massive joke to us," he says.

"We only did it because we were bored. I left my studies in English at Sussex University — and away we went. We couldn't believe it when record companies started interest in us."

The interest soon turned into a record deal which then gave way to a string of chart hits — and Generation X became the first punk rock band ever to appear on *Top Of The Pops*, Brit air's premiere pop TV show.

But by 1981, Idol decided enough was enough. He quit the band to go solo. "It was a move I had to make."

Search

"I really went through hell. But I think I needed to. It was the only way I was going to understand and be strong enough to do what I'm doing now and actually last doing it."

So Idol packed his bags and headed for New York in search of a new start. It didn't come easily or quickly, but with the help of an astute manager — Bill Aucoin, who had steered the American heavy metal group Kiss to stardom — and regular payoffs for his videos on MTV, Idol finally re-established himself.

He became hugely popular in America almost overnight. One minute he was playing concerts to 600 people and the next to 14,000. Idol confesses that he took great satisfaction in finding himself a celebrity hack home in England as a result of his US achievements.



Former Generation X rocker Billy Idol shows the provocative pout that has made him a hit with the girls

VARIETY



Little Ferial Sayed, who was saved by surgeons at Mount Vernon Hospital.

Guidelines change for measles immunization

BOSTON, (UPI) A recent basketball game between the University of Maine and Boston University shaped up to be a good one. At tip-off time, the players were ready to go, the officials and scorekeepers were set.

It was only the fans who were missing. An outbreak of measles on the Maine campus forced health officials in Boston to restrict admission to the game, fearing that packing thousands of people together in the presence of such a contagious disease could turn an outbreak into an epidemic.

The incident was the latest of several similar occurrences at schools and colleges during the past couple of seasons. Eight years after the deadline set by the Federal government for eradicating measles, the disease is not only around, it is resurgent.

According to Ken Allman, a public health consultant at the Federal Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, there were 16,236 documented cases of measles in the United States in 1989.

Allman said that represents 6.5 per 100,000 people — a fivefold increase over 1988. If that was not bad enough, he said the incidence of measles in the first month of 1990 ran 40 per cent ahead of 1989, with outbreaks occurring in 12 American states.

Those numbers still are nothing like the half-million Americans annually infected with measles before a vaccine came onto the market in 1963. But Allman said the stubborn presence of the disease — especially among preschoolers and young adults — has led to a recent change in government guidelines for immunization.

Prior to last year, a single vaccination against measles at the age of about 15 months was believed sufficient. Now, federal and state agencies, as well as the American Academy of Paediatrics, recommend two doses — one at 15 months was and a second administered sometime between kindergarten and sixth grade.

Allman said it is not clear why single doses of measles vaccine have not been universally effective, but he said researchers suspect that in some people, the protection conferred by a single vaccination wanes over a period of time.

Among people who are now college-aged, there are other problems as well. Those who were vaccinated between 1963 and 1975 generally received their doses at nine or 12 months — which doctors now believe was too early to confer maximum protection.

In addition, Allman said it appears some vaccine was not handled properly in the 1960s, leading it to break down and lose effectiveness.

Nation-wide, he said the biggest problem with measles is among pre-schoolers, because no laws require proof of immunization until a child enters the first year of school.

As a result, immunization rates can vary from 100 per cent in some communities to as little as 28 per cent in some inner-city areas, he said.

"If a child is enrolled in some kind of pre-school programme, then chances are that he or she will need to be immunized," he said. "But if you've got a kid who stays at home, under the care of mother or grandma, there is no such requirement."

One strategy that has proved successful in reducing the incidence of measles is universal immunization programmes in which taxpayers pick up the bill for the cost of vaccines, said Dr Alfred Demaria, assistant commissioner for communicable diseases in the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Demaria said Massachusetts is one of eight states that pays for immunization programmes covering measles and several other diseases, including mumps, rubella, polio and diphtheria.

He credits the programme for giving the state a pre-schooler immunization rate of "over 90 per cent in all communities," and one of the lowest incidences of measles in the country, with 109 cases in 1989.

Because measles in Massachusetts occurs primarily among people aged 10 to 20, Demaria said state law requires all students entering college present proof of immunization.

In addition, guidelines issued in January recommend these students should now have evidence of receiving two doses of vaccine.

Although it is generally assumed people born before 1957 are immune to the disease, federal and state officials say vaccinations are nevertheless a good idea for health care workers and travellers to countries where measles is widespread.

New hope for burn victims

LITTLE Ferial Sayed hovered close to death after suffering burns to 45 per cent of her body in a horrific accident. But a new plastic surgery technique pioneered by British surgeons has saved her life.

Two-year-old Ferial is one of just seven patients in the world who have benefited from the new skin-grafting treatment developed at Mount Vernon Hospital in Northwood, Middlesex.

The technique uses skin from dead donors. This is then meshed with some of the patient's own skin to repair serious burns damage.

The whole right side of Ferial's body was badly burned in July when her clothes caught fire as she played with matches. Her condition was critical and her parents were advised that the new treatment was her only chance.

Ferial's father, Karim Sayed, said: "I wasn't bothered about using skin from dead bodies. We were so desperate to save her. I told the doctors, 'do what ever you have to do to save her life.'"

Ferial lost the fingers on her right hand and part of her right ear. And back in July, when the accident happened, she had no pulse in her right arm.

Now she has recovered completely and will have an operation to restore her ear.

Sayed, 32, said: "Ferial is absolutely fine now and in condition to go home."

The pioneering treatment involves giving the patient the Cyclosporin drug, which prevents rejection of the donor's skin. After about three months, when the patient's skin has regrown, the donor's skin drops off.

A pioneering new technique developed in British hospital will save blaze victims like little Ferial Sayed and take plastic surgery into a new era — but the need for funds is critical, reports Claire Lockhart from London

The Aids virus has raised new problems for the surgeons at Mount Vernon and they must be particularly careful screening the donors.

Ferial's surgeon at Mount Vernon Hospital, Mr Roy Sanders, said: "The image of plastic surgery is even now connected in some people's minds with cosmetic operations, whereas the work of the surgeon has developed dramatically across a range of fields in the past 10 years."

"Many more burnt patients can be saved and restored to a normal life and our colleagues in the field of radiotherapy is showing very exciting results."

"On the horizon are developments such as whole grafts from donors for people with serious facial burns, and the repair of cleft lips

and palates before birth."

Now the new charity has been formed to raise money for research into plastic surgery at Mount Vernon. The charity Raft — Restoration of Appearance and Function Trust — aims to raise £7 million. And the research will further studies into tissue repair and transplantation, burns therapy, cancer and cleft lip and palate.

Sanders said: Raft also aims to widen the public's understanding of the role of the plastic surgeon and his team and the advances that are continuing to be made."

One of the patrons of Raft is former Conservative Party chairman Norman Tebbit, who suffered repeated and painful skin-grafting operations himself after the IRA bombing of the Grand Hotel in Brighton in 1984.

Now he hopes to raise money for research and equipment. He told me: "The amount of money needed is almost unlimited because it is an on-going project — to carry on research and to provide ongoing resources in the hospital."

"It's fairly expensive work, obviously. I got mixed up with this because I was trying to raise money on my own for the Nuffield Orthopaedics Appeal. So now I've got my hands in everybody's wallet!"

Mr Tebbit, 58, continued: "You try and do a little good now and then in this world, don't you? Sir Robin Chichester — Clark and I are old friends. And he asked me if I could do anything to help."

"Mostly in that sordid business of trying to persuade people to part with good money!"



Politician Norman Tebbit, who is a patron of Raft, poses with little Ferial Sayed and her parents Karim and Fauzia.

Reviving American sailing industry

CHICAGO, (UPI) — A consortium of designers and engineers led by Amoco Chemical Co. recently outlined plans for a revolutionary 65-foot prototype sailing yacht they hope will revive the United States declining sailboat industry.

Amoco officials at the National Design Engineering Conference said the design of the vessel centres on two revolutionary concepts — a wing keel that looks a little like a dolphin and canis to the optimum sailing angle, and a lightweight bipod mast shaped from carbon fiber.

The boat, to be christened the Amoco Procyon after the bright star near the sailing constellations, is the brainchild of yacht designer Olaf Harken of Harken, Inc.

Harken said he set out more three years ago to create a fast, comfortable, easy-to-rig sailboat that would be affordable to maintain.

"I figured a lot more people would be interested in sailboats if they were just as convenient and fast as motorboats," Harken said.

"When I originally approached Amoco Chemical, I just hoped they would listen long enough for me to explain my idea," he said. "Not only did they listen, but they really got excited."

"The sailing industry has been in a technological slump, without a lot of change in design over the past few years," Harken said.

"Except Amoco Procyon to excel as a cruising-racing boat, but more importantly, to serve as a stimulation to the industry for the future," he said. "It is the future."

An Amoco Chemical spokeswoman said the company expects to Amoco Procyon to be completed by next January.

Amoco Chemical is supplying materials and marketing support for the project. Amoco Chemical manufactures a variety of marine products — including the carbon fiber that will be used in the ship's mast.

"We believe Amoco Procyon embodies those characteristics of high quality and innovation so important to have any industry," said "Amoco Chemical" vice president Bruce.

"High technology is not enough. It is the combination of quality materials, craftsmanship and imaginative design and new products that creates new opportunities in an industry," Otto said. "Amoco Procyon has the potential to turn the declining sailboat industry around."

Harken heads the design team and is providing block and fitting design and production.

Britt Chance of Chance and Co. heads the hull-design project.

"The wing keel is a major breakthrough for increasing boat speed," said Chance. "And we've added a radical ingredient: this wing keel canis to optimum sailing angle."

'I'm the girl from nowhere'

BLONDE casino girl Francesca Cox has never been born. And that's official.

Because 26-year-old Franki's birth certificate has been lost, she can't even get married if she wants to.

The shrewd casino inspector, who is trained to spot gambling cheats, can't drive a car, get a passport to leave England or even receive a state pension when she is 60 years old.

Even when she had a birthday recently, Franki's friends had to take the number of candles on her cake on trust.

When Franki was a little girl, it was only by an amazing stroke of luck that her mother, Margaret, beat the bureaucrats so that her daughter could even go to school.

"I don't exist officially," Franki told me. "It's absolutely ridiculous that I don't belong to anywhere, not in Malaysia, where I was born and not in Britain. There are no documents anywhere to say I am alive. Yet I'm here. I'm all flesh and blood, 26 years old and the government says I'm not legally here. But they are also saying, in the same breath, I can't get out of the country either because they can't give me a passport until I prove who I am and that I exist. It is a vicious circle. I am so depressed and very upset about it. I am a real nobody."

Now, a Member of Parliament, Sir Michael Shaw, is fighting to make the girl from *Nowhere* the girl from *Somewhere*.

But it won't be easy. For the tangle goes back to just years after Franki was born in Malaysia, where her father, Francis, was a soldier.

The family moved back to Britain and they settled in Scotland. The certificate was lost altogether with clothes, watches and other valuables, which were in trunks.

It didn't seem to matter at the time. But now that Franki has grown up into an attractive career woman, whose ambition is to work in the world's most exotic places, that missing certificate is casting a sinister shadow over her life.

She has given up her job in a casino, in Scarborough, Yorkshire, as she is so depressed. Because of the missing scrap of paper Franki has had to turn down a top spot on the Sunshine Island of Jamaica.

Even in England, Franki's career has been less than glittering because she couldn't prove that she had ever been born.

She explains: "My career in casino had come to a standstill and I wanted to go abroad to work in nightclubs, where I could double my income and gain invaluable experience. But I was being caged in, though no fault of my own, because I couldn't get a passport. I had lost my freedom."

It is only a cruel twist of fate that prevented another solution being found to Franki's nightmares.

If her father could have produced his own birth certificate, Franki could have convinced the authorities that she was alive and well and British.

But after the family moved back to England her parents' very stormy marriage finally came to a halt. They were divorced and Franki lived with her mother Margaret, in Scotland and her Cockney father returned to London.

That was the last time Franki saw her father. "I don't remember him at all," Franki continues. "My mother was very bitter after they divorced and burnt every single photograph of him. If he walked into my life now I would not recognise him. Nobody knows where he is, whether he is in this country or even if he's still alive."

Lawyers and all sorts of people tried to trace him for years to claim maintenance money owed to my mother, but he hasn't been heard of or seen since."

And that's the problem. If Franki had both her parents' birth certificates and divorce papers she could have a passport.

"The law states that the one birth certificate I need is my father's, just my mother's is not good enough," Franki says. "Nobody knows where he is so I can't have

one. We even tried contacting the army, who must have records of him, even though he left the army, but we had no luck there either."

Fate had struck another blow. A fire at army headquarters in Malaysia had destroyed all files and there was no record surviving of Francis Cox. The mystery of his whereabouts deepened.

But once... just once... Franki was tempted to break out of her "cage" and go abroad to work.

She explains: "I walked into the Post Office and got a visitor's passport, falsely telling the clerk that I'd forgotten my birth certificate and that I was travelling out of the country the next day. It was a terrible thing to do but I was desperate. I was able to live and work in Amsterdam for a whole year with it. It was great."

"I've even been offered false and stolen passports, which I must admit have been very tempting to me. But it would be just my luck that I would be caught if I left the country using one."

"I would never risk it now. I would be really snookered if I did. I mean it would be a criminal act and I could jeopardise my position of never getting a real passport of my own. I hope I never have to stoop to that level."

But the agony that has lasted for nearly a lifetime goes on.

"After going to Amsterdam I've had so many offers to go abroad to work, it's incredible. Not only jobs in Europe but all over the world. It's very frustrating because I can't take any of them up."

"It has got to the stage when people laugh at me when I say I can't leave the country, they think I'm joking. They just don't believe me and think I am only making excuses."

"At one time I wanted to join the police force but I couldn't because of a slip of paper. This madness is ruining my plans

and ruining my life."

"What is even more stupid is that apparently I could become a British citizen. But I am one."

But the final blow for Franki came in March when she was offered a top in Jamaica. And she cracked.

"The pressure was too much," Franki explained. "I have been offered jobs in West Africa, South Africa, America and Australia, but this was the job and I desperately wanted it. I'd had enough. I knew that if I couldn't go to Jamaica the next week, that was it, there was nothing left for me."

"Being forbidden to leave the country is the worst thing about this business. I don't want to get married, as nobody wants me. I'm not particularly worried about not being able to drive, but my career means everything to me."

"I have lived in Scarborough for seven years now and I was very happy, but it's time to move on. I was getting so uptight about things and very very upset. I just couldn't accept that I wasn't going to Jamaica. It was a lovely job. The disappointment made me give up my present job and I'm now unemployed. I had to have time to sort myself out. It is the first time in my life that I have been out of work and I hate it. But the challenges aren't there anymore."

"I am at my wits end. What do I do now? Who can help me? I don't know which way to turn. There doesn't seem to be any documents in the world, no register in Malaysia or Britain to say I'm alive."

"I may well be a real nobody officially, but I want to show people that Francesca Cox is a real somebody. And I want to know where I belong. I've always considered Britain to be my home, where my roots are, but I want to work for certain."

"If I can go abroad to work I want it to be in the knowledge that I have a home... a country... to come back to."

Beautiful Francesca Cox can't get married, drive a car or leave the country. Because her birth certificate has been lost... the casino girl isn't even officially alive writes Tracy Weeks.



No one: Francesca leans against the car she is desperate to drive but officials have denied her driving license.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Consumers invited to look for new label

Newly bottled Perrier gets relaunch

PARIS, March 6, (Reuters): Familiar green bottles of bubbly Perrier water wearing bright "new production" stickers start returning to the market this week after a health scare, a costly global recall and a big clean-up at the French mineral spring.

Source Perrier S.A. said in a statement from its Paris headquarters the month-long Perrier drought, caused by the discovery of tiny traces of the suspected cancer-causing agent benzene, would end for French consumers tomorrow.

Belgian, Swiss and Luxembourg shops would have their shelves restocked by the end of the week, and the

rest of the world between now and mid-April.

"Perrier invites consumers to look for the new label giving them the assurance that the bottle has undergone special checks by an international laboratory," the company said.

In the latest phase of a damage-limitation exercise that has attracted praise from industry analysts and even rival bottlers, the company said advertising campaigns would escort the "new" Perrier back on to world markets.

"A new team of experts using extremely sophisticated techniques was permanently checking the purity of

the mineral water and monitoring had been "reinforced at every phase of production," it said.

An independent French expert who earlier inspected the bottling plant, at the site of the naturally effervescent spring in the south of France, had advised Perrier to double its gas filtration and triple the rate of test-sampling.

Benzene, which Perrier said had accumulated because the gas filters had not been changed, was first found in samples tested in the United States in quantities authorities said were too small to pose any immediate health hazard.

When traces turned up elsewhere, the

company ordered an unprecedented global recall of stocks.

Perrier has estimated the net cost of the recall at 220 million francs (\$39 million).

The Paris daily Le Figaro speculated the company might get no more than five million francs (\$900,000) back in insurance compensation.

Industry analysts saw the move as a bold strategy to defend Perrier's image of pristine purity and transparent integrity.

Opinion surveys in France, Britain, the United States and Canada indicated that nine out of 10 mineral

water drinkers were perfectly aware of the incident, believed Perrier had posed no health hazard and thought the company had behaved well.

"Among Perrier drinkers, the great majority (between 73 and 89 per cent depending on the country) had the firm intention of drinking Perrier again as soon as it was available," the company quoted the surveys as showing.

In the US, where advertising campaigns had made it the most prestigious and expensive of mineral waters, 84 per cent of fans were eagerly awaiting the new stocks, it said. Even 47 per cent of the uninitiated were ready to try the product.

"Our job now is to serve the consumer, whose patience, comprehension and understanding have touched us profoundly," said source Perrier founder and chairman, Gustave Leven.

But the company said it could not at present provide a global estimate of the cost of the Perrier relaunch and it had no comment on the Le Figaro report about insurance compensation.

Le Figaro had said Perrier's main liability insurance with UNI-Europe covered the company only in cases where injuries were caused by consuming the product, not for the withdrawal and destruction of up to 200 million suspect bottles.

Trade reforms must get top priority: Kaifu

TOKYO, March 6, (AP): Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu urged legislators today to turn their attention to reforming structural problems in the Japanese economy that contribute to Japan's \$49-billion trade surplus with the United States.

"We intend realistic efforts to carry out structural reforms. That means we must carry out reforms of our land use policies and improve the standard of living," Kaifu said in the upper house of parliament.

"Our corporations are wealthy and strong, but this wealth has come at the expense of long working hours and a low standard of living. It is time to redress this imbalance," he said.

Kaifu, who last week promised US President George Bush to do his best to carry out the reforms in line with the "structural impediments

initiative" trade talks, is fighting his government's tendency to become entangled in domestic disputes.

Japan's parliament has accomplished few trade-related reforms in the year since it became embroiled in battles over a bribery scandal and a controversial sales tax.

Kaifu is urging Japan, Socialist Party chairwoman Takako Doi and other opposition leaders to abandon their attacks on the sales tax given the comfortable majority his party won in Feb 18 parliamentary elections.

"I don't think it would be exaggerating to say we have the full support and understanding of the people on this issue," he said.

Opposition parties unsuccessfully based their campaigns in last month's lower house election on calls to abolish the sales tax, which along with a series of sex and money scandals eroded public support for the ruling party and contributed to its defeat in an upper house election last July.

Kaifu's opponents, led by the socialists, the No. 1 opposition party, dominate the upper house and are likely to obstruct action on a number of trade-related issues facing parliament.

These include plans to reform Japan's distribution system, land use laws to provide more land for housing and cut inflated prices, and increased spending on roads, parks and sewers to improve the general quality of life — changes Washington says are needed to eliminate "structural" trade barriers behind the chronic US trade deficit with Japan.

Parliament must first deal with a revised version of the 3 per cent sales tax and a national budget by the end of this month. A revision of the sales tax exempting food, school entrance fees and welfare in response to widespread criticism was scheduled to go before parliament today.

Kuwait eyes E. European market

(Continued from Page 1)

Interest in investing in two refineries in Gdańsk and Plock which have combined annual output of about 300,000 barrels a day.

Sheikh Ali's trip precedes a meeting of the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) in Vienna on March 16 to discuss how to share out a buoyant oil market.

Opec officials have said the impact of rapid changes in Eastern Europe will also be discussed by the group's ministers.

Sheikh Ali will be accompanied by a high-ranking delegation, including the vice-president of Kuwait's Petroleum International KPI, Nasser Al Salem, KPC European manager Abdel Samad Al Awadi and Abdel Fattah Al Badr, chairman of the Kuwait Oil Tankers Company (KOTC), the official said.

Eastern European nations have lost most of their oil supplies from the Soviet Union, which is experiencing severe shortages because of technical difficulties. Moscow is also selling more crude abroad to earn badly-needed hard currency.

With nearly two-thirds of the world's oil reserves and idle spare output capacity, Gulf states are a natural alternative.

Kuwait owns about 92 billion barrels in proven reserves and sells nearly 40 per cent of its output of 1.9 million barrels a day through an extensive marketing network in Western Europe that includes two refineries and some 4,000 filling stations.

Most of its foreign investments, estimated at around \$14 billion, are centred in Western Europe and some Arab states.

GCC plans to produce lead-free gasoline

Kuwait resists price hike bid

KUWAIT, March 6, (AP): Kuwait is resisting any moves to raise the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries crude oil reference price of \$18 a barrel, a local daily said today.

Quoting unidentified oil sources, the newspaper said "intensive contacts" were taking place among Opec members on the price issue ahead of the March 16 meeting in Vienna of the Opec market monitoring committee.

"All 13 Opec oil ministers are expected to attend the Vienna meeting."

Iraq has suggested that Opec should increase the \$18 price to account for world inflation.

The reference price, pegged by Opec since the mid-1980s, was endorsed at the organisation's last conference in November 1989. The organisation also agreed on a 22 million barrel per day production ceiling for the first half of 1990.

A report in the Nicosia-based oil newsletter, Middle East

Opec output stable

PARIS, March 6, (UPI): Crude oil production by Opec countries was about 23.2 million barrels a day in February, about 100,000 barrels a day higher than during January, the International Energy Agency said today.

The agency said Iran increased its production to 2.9 million barrels a day in February from 2.6 million barrels a day the previous month. Venezuela increased its production to 2 million barrels a day from 1.9 million barrels a day in January, while Nigeria reduced production to 1.7 million barrels a day from 1.8 million barrels a day the month before.

The IEA said oil consumption among Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries rose by 0.3 per cent during the 1989 fourth quarter compared with the third quarter to 39.3 million barrels a day. North American consumption declined by 0.7 per cent to 19.7 million barrels a day.

Consumption by European countries belonging to the OECD remained unchanged during the fourth quarter at 13.4 million barrels a day while consumption by Pacific region OECD members rose a per cent from the third quarter to 6.3 million barrels a day.

Economic Survey (MEES) on Monday said Libya also wants a price increase, to around \$20-22. The daily said Kuwait remains adamant in opposing any increase in the reference price, preferring instead to see higher production quotas and a higher overall Opec ceiling.

stabilise the oil market."

No other details were released in the statement but Saudi Arabia, the dominant Opec member state, has a long-standing policy of advocating stability and moderation for the oil market in the interest of producers and consumers alike.

In another development, the six Gulf Co-operation Council member states plan to produce only lead-free gasoline as of 1995. GCC officials said today.

"All GCC states now have their own plan to produce lead-free gasoline," Mahmoud Sayar of the GCC secretariat told the Associated Press.

Sayar was participating in a three-day meeting of petroleum-refining officials of the Gulf states grouped in the economic and defence alliance led by Saudi Arabia and including Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

Oapec warns Arab states

Call to stop replying on foreign know-how

KUWAIT, March 6, (AP): The Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries today warned against the continued dependence of the Arab oil industry on foreign know-how.

The Kuwaiti-based organisation, which groups 11 Arab states, warned in its monthly bulletin that the Arab oil industry would be "rootless" if national oil companies did not develop an advanced indigenous labour force.

It noted that nationals did replace expatriates in key management posts since the mid-1970s when the oil industry in most Opec countries came under national control, but "foreign experts still hold key technical posts responsible for the day-to-day running" of the industry.

"All the long-established multinationals are technologically integrated (into) ... homogeneous trees. National oil companies in Opec countries may be described as rootless grafts because they have a long way to go before they have their own research and development systems, which are the ultimate source of know-how," the bulletin said.

"Since these entities are viewed by their top overseers as multibillion-dollar businesses, a lack of R-and-D (research and development) places them in a precarious situation," it added.

Oapec's warning was in line with recurring remarks by Arab academics and experts against the notion that technology transfer is merely the ability

to purchase high-technology equipment and recruit foreign expertise.

"Seeking technological input directly from the market or through a joint venture partner is costly, because it sometimes involves paying a monopoly price for proprietary knowledge. It also leads to meager results in terms of technology transfer," the editorial said.

"The oil industry is characterised by the rapidity with which technology becomes obsolete, equipment becomes redundant, and management approaches undergo radical changes," the bulletin said.

"How the individual oil companies deal with the problem arising from such changes gives an indication of their viability," it added.

Oapec called for a pan-Arab integration of know-how as the sole long-term solution for the technology problems of the Arab oil industry over the coming 50 years or so.

"Long-term solutions, although time consuming, are the only answer: Arab oil companies must develop their own innovative R-and-D systems," the bulletin said.

"The oil industry is here to stay for many years, possibly half a century or more, which is too long to be grafted onto another tree. It is high time the Arab oil industries join ranks in collaboration with Oapec to formulate a long-term R-and-D plans," it added.

Low oil stocks may help Opec buoy prices

LONDON, March 6, (Reuters): At the start of this year Western oil companies' petroleum stocks were at their lowest since early 1974, an international energy watchdog body said today.

They stood at 64 days' of forward supply to cover demand compared with a peak of 82 days on Jan 1, 1983, the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) said in its monthly oil report.

But the IEA said that when government stocks were added to the supplies as of Jan 1 this year, there were 92 days' supply available to the 24 member nations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The OECD states thus appear well-insulated

against any supply hiccup. But the low level of their stocks may induce the companies to buy more oil for storage in coming months, which could help keep petroleum prices firm despite excess supply by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

The IEA said Opec output in January remained just above 23 million barrels per day (bpd), which analysts reckon is probably around one million more than actual demand for Opec's oil.

Although Opec may have overshot demand at present, world oil consumption is rebounding fast from a glut of the 1980s and oil analysts say companies may thus want to keep more oil in stock.

Gold strengthens

Dollar turns mixed

LONDON, March 6, (AP): The dollar turned in a mixed performance in European trading today, with a late surge against the yen and the Deutsche mark.

Gold was higher.

At 1700 GMT, the dollar was quoted at 1.7005 marks, down from 1.7035 marks late Monday in London.

The dollar also finished the European day at 149.75 yen, up from 149.50 yen at the close in Tokyo. The Tokyo close was down 0.45 yen from the previous day.

The dollar had eased through much of afternoon in Europe, but dealers said it moved higher on a spurt of buying largely pegged to speculative interest in testing central bank resolve to hold the dollar down.

Bank of Japan intervention in Asian dealings had pushed the dollar lower. Though dealers noted that even though the US Federal Reserve was spotted in the European market selling dollars for yen late in the day, the impact was minimal.

Gold traded in London at a late bid price of \$405.00 a troy ounce, up from 403.75 bid late Monday.

In Zurich, the bid price was \$405.50 per troy ounce, up from \$403.25 late Monday.

Plan to cut subsidies

Moroccans brace for austerity

RABAT, March 6, (Reuters): Economists say Moroccans face a probable diet of price hikes and reduced subsidies under a belt-tightening regime ordered by King Hassan to deal with the troubled economy.

In a state-of-the-nation address on the annual throne day last Saturday, the King said a sudden rise in energy prices and lower-than-expected sales of phosphate — Morocco's most important export — had blown the economy off course.

He said the government had been ordered to take steps to deal with a budget deficit which has rocketed to at least 6.9 billion dirhams (\$840 million).

"From now on, it (the government) will have to follow a balanced and wise austerity policy," the King said.

Economic analysts said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was insisting Morocco bring its budget deficit down from a projected 6.5 per cent to around 3.5 per cent before it grants a new facility.

They said Morocco would have to raise prices, cut subsidies or raise taxes. They added there was also a possibility of a devaluation of the dirham which would make imports more expensive and exports cheaper.

In the first six months of last year, the cost of imports grew by 16.5 per cent compared with the previous year, the main factor behind a trade deficit of more than \$1 billion.

"They have very limited room for manoeuvre. It appears from what the King said they are ready to swallow the pill. Whatever happens it is not going to be a very pretty year," one economic analyst told Reuters.

The last IMF facility of some \$250 million ran out at the end of December. Diplomatic sources said talks with the IMF have



King Hassan

made no progress. "It is not the amount that is important. It is the seal of approval that Morocco needs as a signal to other lenders," one analyst said.

The World Bank calculates Morocco — with debts of between \$21 and \$22 billion — as the eighth most heavily-indebted Third World country.

Although it owes much less than many other countries, its position is considered much worse when the level of indebted-

ness is compared with income from exports or expressed as a percentage of gross domestic product — two key World Bank measures.

Morocco was first thrown into the arms of the IMF in the mid-1980s after a succession of poor harvests, high energy prices, and a collapse in phosphate prices forced it to reschedule its debt.

The country began an IMF-approved adjustment programme intended to cut state expenditure and boost exports.

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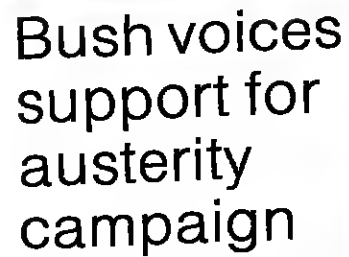
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GCC officials to reaffirm policy



His Economy Minister Antonio Ernan Gonzalez, said Sunday that the Menem government would seek to save \$1 billion by cutting back on the state bureaucracy, in part through early retirements and layoffs.

"Everybody we met was eager, thirsty, hungry for this," said John Menke, whose San Francisco firm helps arrange financing for Esops. "They are just waiting for some kind of law that allows them to do this."

| | Buying | Selling |
|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| US dollar | 0.29163 | 0.29278 |
| Sterling | 0.480168 | 0.48294 |
| DM | 0.171900 | 0.172986 |
| Sw.Fr | 0.194874 | 0.196036 |
| F.Fr | 0.030895 | 0.031185 |
| Li.tira | 0.000233 | 0.000235 |
| Jap.yen | 0.001955 | 0.001968 |
| Bah.dio | 0.773349 | 0.776913 |
| U.A.E.Dh. | 0.079376 | 0.079733 |
| S. riyal | 0.077726 | 0.078095 |
| Q. riyal | 0.080074 | 0.0804780 |
| O. riyal | 0.757185 | 0.760862 |

| Period | Bid | Offer |
|----------|--------|---------|
| 1 month | 8-9/16 | 8-13/16 |
| 3 months | 8-9/16 | 8-13/16 |
| 6 months | 8-9/16 | 8-13/16 |
| 1 year | 8-9/16 | 8-13/16 |

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| Indian rupee | 17.2 |
| Sri Lankan rupee | 7.3 |
| Pakistani rupee | 13.7 |
| Bangladesh taka | 8.5 |
| US dollar | 292 |
| Pound sterling | 482 |
| UAE dirham | 079 |
| Deutsche mark | 172 |
| Japanese yen | 0019 |

All the GCC states are essentially

This forces finance ministries into the role of central state economic planners and has relegated the private sector

The problem is that the Western con-

key problem for future policy.
Islam is not an anti-economy

"The changes will make people become more responsible for their own health," said one Gulf-based banker.

Kuwait seeks partnership

Quick action

on needed o

Al Khorafi told a local daily that the agreement would protect Kuwaiti investments in Poland throughout economic and political developments.

Al Houti also met Belgium ambassador here Marceil Van Roey on issues of mutual interests.

The official United Arab Emirates (UAE) news agency

"Aircraft and parts, motor vehicles and parts and shipbuilding and

175-17626

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|--------|-------|--------|------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Alam Clean | — | — | — | Hand Lever | 108 | 108.10 | 20 |
| Alw Nix | — | — | — | Heat Cakes | 151.50 | 151.25 | 73.50 |
| Ari Pab | — | — | — | Heat Motor | 22 | 22.50 | 21.25 |
| Asbok Ley | 76 | 76 | 74 | Hinges | 225 | 225 | 218.75 |
| Asan Pnat | 218.75 | 215 | 216.25 | Hoists | 1320 | 1360 | 1490 |
| Atlas Cop | 39 | 37.50 | 35.50 | Iron | 225 | 215 | 225 |

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|--------|-----|--------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|
| Auto Corp | 47.50 | 50 | 48.50 | Impart | 25 | 22.5 | 25 |
| Nat Index | 378.25 | | 374.30 | ITC | 54 | 53 | 54 |
| Bajaj Auto | 390 | 385 | 386.25 | Ind Org | 51.25 | 51 | 50 |
| Bar Rayon | 637.50 | 635 | 632.50 | Ind Rayon | 91 | 90.50 | 90 |
| | | | | Indrol | 172.50 | 171.25 | 168.75 |

The treatment of Japanese cars, which have up to 30 per cent of the market in those EEC countries which have no quota restrictions, is seen as an acid test of whether the post-1992 single market will remain open to become a "Fortress Europe".

Overhead view of the 60th Annual International Automobile Show which opened in Geneva yesterday.
(Reuter wirephoto)

Pressed on the most delicate issue of all — how to treat Japanese-made cars manufactured in the common market — the British government

"The only strategy can be firm investment in the European Free

"What I want is to have a trained period during which transplants will be taken into account one way or another in the monitoring system we are setting up," he added.

The LDDC admits that until recently it put buildings before people. It now recognises that the public image and commercial future of docklands will depend on shifting its priorities.

So the LDDC wants to spend money to create some soul. In the 1989/1990 financial year it plans to spend about £51 million (\$86 million) on community services, such as housing and training, nearly twice the

But from the turn of the century its vitality began waning. The final blow came in the late 1960s when, one by one, the docks shut down amid labour disputes with the loss of 5,000 jobs. And it was one of the

The LDDC build basic utilities, such as roads and drains, to prepare the land for development. But it had no duties towards local residents.

that you would solve the social problems of the area by filling up the land. But that just hasn't happened," said Ben Kochan, spokesman for the Docklands Forum, an umbrella body linking some 50 local groups.

TOKYO BRANCH

| Yen exchange rate: 149.30 | | Kiyosora Zairi | |
|---------------------------|----------|----------------|----------|
| Name of stock | | Kyocera Corp | 7320 +20 |
| Advantest Corp | 5400 -20 | Marui | 2940 +20 |
| Ajinomoto | 2360 -10 | Matsumita Ind | 3610 0 |
| Alps Electric | 2080 0 | Mats Electric | 2100 -30 |
| Amada | 1770 -80 | Mazda M C | 880 +2 |
| | | Mitsubishi | 1610 0 |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|-----|-------------------|------|-----|
| Asahi Glass Ind | 1020 | 0 | Mitsubishi Corp | 1510 | 0 |
| Asahi Glass | 1860 | -20 | Mitsubishi Estate | 1990 | +10 |
| C. Itoh Co. | 955 | +14 | Mitsubishi H I | 992 | +1 |
| Canon Inc. | 1620 | -20 | Mitsui R E | 2260 | +60 |
| Casio Comp | 1550 | -20 | Mizuno Corp | 1850 | 0 |
| | 2110 | -16 | Moribiki Ph | 4390 | 0 |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|------|------|-------------------|------|-----|
| Dai Nippon Printing | 2110 | -10 | Mochida Ph | 4390 | 0 |
| Daiichi Seiyaku | 2720 | +20 | Mori Seiki Co. | 4200 | 0 |
| Dainippon Ph | 2600 | -20 | NEC Corp | 1870 | -40 |
| Daiselaku Corp | 2010 | +10 | Nikon Corp | 1510 | -10 |
| Eisai | 1960 | -10 | Nippon Shm Co | 1410 | -20 |
| Fanuc Ltd | 8000 | -470 | Nippon Steel Corp | 661 | -2 |

| | | | | | |
|----------------|------|-----|-------------------|------|-----|
| Famco Ltd. | 8000 | -70 | Nippon Soda Corp. | 2250 | -20 |
| Fuji Photo | 4100 | -60 | Nipponpondo | 1650 | -20 |
| Fujitsu Ltd. | 1460 | 0 | Nitazuko Corp | 2840 | +10 |
| Hinachi Credit | 1600 | 0 | Nomura Sec | 1600 | -50 |
| Hitachi Ltd. | 2020 | +10 | Okuma Mach | 2020 | -10 |
| Hitachi Koki | 1530 | -30 | Onward K Co. | | |
| Hitachi Ltd. | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---------------|------|------|-------------------------------|------|------|
| Hitachi Metal | 1480 | +20 | Orix Corp | 5490 | +240 |
| Honda Motor | 1650 | -20 | Provided by Nomura Investment | | |
| ItoYokado Co | 3860 | -110 | Banking (Midcent), Bahrain | | |
| Kajima Corp | 2070 | +50 | | | |

CHINESE ROYALTY

| SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWARD PORT AS ON 02/3/99 | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|----------|
| B.No. | Ship's Name | Agent | Tel. No. |
| 06 | Five Star | Saganship | 2432692 |
| 08 | Shaan | JSA | 2441860 |
| 11 | White Rooster | Al Bader | 2433537 |

| | | | |
|--|---------------|-------------|----------|
| 13 | Uri Spring | Salma Mtime | 0435001 |
| 15 | Golden Bear | Mohd Bahar | 4745441 |
| 17 | Gulf Bridge | Sagership | 2401900 |
| SHIP'S DISCHARGING/LOADING AT BHUAIKA PORT | | | 7432692 |
| R. No | Ship's Name | Agent | Tel. No. |
| 02 | Great Harvest | RMS | 2423642 |

| | | | |
|----|-------------|-------------|---------|
| 02 | Great Star | RSMS | 2423042 |
| 06 | Cape Breton | Alga Barwil | 4842988 |
| 19 | China Glory | Alga Barwil | 4843988 |

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAMBA PORT

| ETA | Ship's name | Agent | Tel. No. |
|-------|---------------|-------|----------|
| 05/03 | Harmony Slave | KMMC | 2423042 |
| 06/03 | Prometheus | ICA | 2423042 |

| | | | |
|-------|--------------|-------------|---------|
| 05/03 | Prometheus | ISA | 2441860 |
| 05/03 | Ya Hoo | Alph Barwil | 4843988 |
| 06/03 | Mostween 7 | Stamcoo | 2439973 |
| 06/03 | Westphalia | Al Karnai | 2425431 |
| 07/03 | Robert Stove | Stamcoo | 2439973 |
| 08/03 | Madonna Lily | Alph Barwil | 4843988 |
| 10/03 | Madonna Lily | | |

| | | |
|-------|---------------|----------|
| 10/03 | Macrak Fiero | 24137908 |
| 11/03 | Benbehani | 24120855 |
| 11/03 | Ood Charity | 4347815 |
| 11/03 | Ville d'Oman | 4745533 |
| 16/03 | Rhein Express | 2401908 |

Compiled by: Albanian Bureau Shipping Co. Ltd. Tel. 0035922222222222

Compuware by: Magnesian Marine Shipping Co. WLL, Tel: 4423002/4423004 ext: 3023/3030 Fax No. 4845712, Tlx 22094 BAHWU KY. Tlx 30094 SLB KY

Indian Video Roundup

Amitabh Bachchan the avenging angel

By Fahima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

HE'S bad. Very bad. But not that bad at heart. Hidden beneath the tough exterior, is a man with a heart of gold — an angry young man bent on avenging. Amitabh Bachchan who wore the mantle of the avenging angel in Deewar is still wearing it... and if film-makers have their way, he may continue to do the part for eternity. At least, this is the impression we get from Amit's newest film, Agneepath.

With Agneepath, Amitabh Bachchan has been permanently stereotyped as Vijay, the fiery protagonist who embarks on a self-destructive spree crushing everyone who comes in the way of revenge.

A disillusioned character, Vijay in Agneepath, is a clone of similar character in Deewar. Brutal, callous, self-destructive and powerful, Vijay is hateful but sympathetic. Rejected by his mother, he becomes a one-man killing machine pursuing a distant dream — in this instance to throw out smugglers from his village — with director Mukul S. Anand reworking the formula.

By Amitabh's own admission, Agneepath is a "remake" of Deewar, of course, with minor differences. In the previous movie, he played the black sheep of the family with Shashi Kapoor playing the righteous son. In Agneepath, Mithun Chakraborty carries the mantle as the adopted son — the "good one," as Vijay calls him.

Mithun, who got a raw deal in Ganga, Jamuna Saraswati gets a chance to make amends. He appears in one of his best roles to date as 'Nariyal' Panikholi.

nan Iyer "Yam Ey" (M.A.), an unemployed south Indian who sells coconut to earn a living. The 'Nariyal' Panikholi's comic capers, and his presence overshadow Vijay's rather repetitive, predictable reactions. Although loud at times, and caricatured, Krishnan Iyer's presence uplifts the gloom spread by Vijay's encounters with the dreaded mafia.

But Vijay has his share of glory, seeking redemption after a child calls him an outlaw or the time when he is rejected by the so-called "civilised" people. In such sequences, Amit's acting talent emerges. In other scenes, his natural ability to portray the fiery character the umpteenth time takes over.

Bhanupriya plays the romantic cover for Vijay's seething fury. Neelam is paired with Mithun.

Panchhi

Many an expatriate dream of flying back to their homes even if they have lived comfortably in foreign lands for decades. The story of one such family coming to India is the theme of the rather watchable Indian TV serial, Panchhi.

Based on a story by Meera Syal and directed by comic-turned director Ravi Baswani, it follows the fate and fortunes of a Punjabi couple and their three children, a typical Asian family torn between two cultures: the older generation yearning for home with children absorbing the host country's values.

Values clash. Sparks fly. And tension rises as Anne (Anita) speaks out against the prospect of returning "home." "This is my home," she tells her parents and

storms out of the room. From the intangible concept of 'home' emerges conflicting emotional upheavals as two cultures mingle unsuccessfully to form one whole. Reflecting the dilemma of Asians in UK, applicable to Asians in the Gulf, the children are neither ethnic nor British. This leads to an identity crisis.

Anita's character portrays this conflict — and Syal's story skillfully justifies Anita's resentment and later her reluctant, hesitant acceptance of her roots.

Some moments remind you of your own experiences. The lighter side of going home has been reflected in scene showing the children staying up at night — to ward off mosquitoes.

It also debates the hesitant acceptance of "foreign returned Indians" by the homegrown product. At first, there is jubilation giving way to minor squabbles erupting into major battles. However, in the last half of the series, flaws emerge like didactic references to the ailing society.

labour unrest, to name one. Also, there is a tendency to blame those who leave their country for greener pastures.

The 12 episode series stars Sushma Seth, a sensitive TV, film and stage actress, Winnie Paranjpye, Vivek Lalwani and Shivali Puri.

The above videos are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwaniya; Falcon Video, Abbasia; and Canary Video, Fisheries Bldg., Sharq.



Mithun Chakraborty

CINEMA

Al Andalus
World Gone Wild
Al Salmiyah
Batman
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-in
Big
Al Firdous
Teezah
Fahad Open
Arabic film
Al Jahra
Billion Dollar Hobo
Granada
Rage of Ninja
Sulabikhat
Play Dead
Jeeb
Wild Pair
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arabic film

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Cairo Pharmacy
Fahd Al Salem St.
Ibn Rushd Pharmacy
Souk Al Duajj
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Kindy Pharmacy
Al Jahriya
Salmiya and Rumaithiya
Randa Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak Street
Fahad and Ahmadi
Al Ahmadi Pharmacy
Al Ahmadi Market
Farwaniya
Al Yasmin Pharmacy
Main Street
Jahra
Al Khaled Pharmacy
Opp. the co-operative society

PRAYERS

| | |
|---------|---------|
| Fajr | 4.48 am |
| Zohr | 11.59 |
| Asr | 3.21 pm |
| Maghreb | 5.51 |
| Isha | 7.08 |

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

MORNING

9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher News
9.50 Cartoon Serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Shuaa Min Al Madhi: Arabic Serial (part 15)
11.30 Fetna Wa Saad: Beduin Serial (part 1), starring Rasheed Assaf, Abdul Rahman Al Rashi, and Wafa Musilli
12.25 News Summary
12.30 Holy Quran and Cutdown

EVENING

4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Saham Al Fadh: Cartoon Serial
5.15 Spencer: Arabic Children Serial (part 5)
5.45 Night Chemists, Airlines and Official Advertisements
6.00 Wa Qala Hakeem: Historical Serial
7.00 Varieties
7.15 Housing and Citizens: Local Programme, prepared by the National Housing Authority
7.45 Islamic Monuments and Arts: Cultural Programme (part 7)
8.30 Good Evening and Local News
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Television Network: Local Variety Programme, Prepared and Presented by Ahy

Abdul Rahman Al Najjar

10.15 Ila Al Shabah Maa Al Taheya: Arabic Serial (part 10)
11.15 Oyoan Sahana: Arabic Feature Film, starring Shadeya, Salah Zulfikar, Aqeela Rateh
12.45 News Summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and Cutdown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Scooby Doo: A cartoon series for Children
6.30 Professor
7.00 International Outdoorsman: "The Sun-gray Man." The valley of the rays the ideal place for divers in the Caribbean Sea...
7.30 Growing Pains. Due to work pressure Maggie is unable to attend the children's party...
8.00 News in English
8.30 Our House
9.30 The Science Edition. The new technological revolution... changes as a result of introducing new technologies in industry...
10.00 Cine Club: "The Champ" Presented by Farouk Abdulaziz. "Starring: John Voight, Faye Dnnaway, Rick Schroeder. A young boy has faith in a washed-up prizefighter..."
12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery
INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

Watercolours of Arabia
Recent watercolours by Patricia Millson on exhibition at the studio, the Tareq Rajab Museum, Jahriya, Saturday thru Thursday 9.30 to 12 and 4.30 to 8 pm, from March 6 to 20, 1990. Tel: 5315397 or 5318060.

SOCIAL

Mushaira
PAKISTAN Arts Circle is organising a Mushaira (recitation of poems) of selected poets of Kuwait on Thursday, March 8, at Rumaithiya, at the residence of Masood Rasheed Lone at 9 pm sharp.

Invitation cards are available with the secretary of Pakistan Arts Circle, Hamid Mahmood, Tel: 4716258.

A renowned poet from Delhi is expected and will preside over the Mushaira. Families already registered are kindly requested to collect their cards.

Seminar
THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It commenced on Feb 11 and will be given upto March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday, 11.00 am - 12.30 pm or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday, 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyah. Tel: 2430826, 2433259.

Kuwait Little Theatre
KUWAIT Little Theatre presents "Oh Clarence," a comedy by John Chapman, adapted from the books of P.G. Wodehouse. Gala Night is on March 19, 1990, at 7.30 pm with other performances on March 20, 21 and 22 at 8.00 pm. Tickets can be booked by phoning 3919759.

Farewell reception
THE Bangladesh Association, Kuwait, will arrange a reception to bid farewell to Azizur Rahman, the outgoing labour counsellor at the Bangladesh embassy. The reception will be held on March 7, Wednesday, at 5.30 pm at the embassy premises. All Bangladeshis are cordially invited.

Prize distribution
THE annual prize distribution ceremony of the Bangladesh School, Kuwait, will be held on March 9, (Friday) at 6.30 pm at the Ibn Taimiah Secondary School, Hasawi. All Bangladeshis are cordially invited.

British Council

MARCH 10-22 at the gallery: An exhibition of award-winning British published books arranged by The British Council in association with the Kuwait Bookshops Co. Ltd. Orders of books on display, may be ordered through the Kuwait Bookshops which will also offer other British-published books at special prices.

Programme of events: Saturday, March 10, 6.00 pm, opening programme with a lecture by Ms Julia Eccleshare, one of UK's top authority on children's literature; announcement of winners for the Bookworm Contest for children aged 7-15 and formal opening of the exhibition.

Wednesday, March 14, 6.00 pm — Film Showing: The Worst Witch — film fantasy adapted from the children's book, "The Worst Witch" by Jill Murphy. It is the magical tale of a school for witches where things have a habit of going slightly awry. 70 min.

Thursday, March 15, 10.30 am — Story telling by professional story teller. Wednesday, March 21, 6.00 pm — film showing Asterix in Britain. The Movie. Go back far back in time to 50 BC when the Britons stopped fighting for a tea break at 4.00 pm and everyone drank hot water with a little milk because tea hadn't been discovered yet. 75 min.

Thursday, March 22, 10.30 am — story telling by a professional story teller. Note: For all these events during the Children's Books Exhibition admission is free but please book in advance. The opening programme, however, is by invitation only. The exhibition is open to the public during regular library hours.

APPROB essay competition
ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (APPROB) has extended the last date of its essay competition from 15th March to 15th April. The essay competition on the topic "My role in building a better Pakistan" is being held on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Pakistan Resolution.

Pakistani students in the age group of between 12-14 (juniors) and 15-18 (seniors) are invited to write their essays in Urdu or English, which should be between 1,000 to 1,500 words.

Four prizes of KD 100 each (2 each for Urdu and English) will be awarded to the best articles in each group with other consolation prizes for deserving participants.

The panel of judges is headed by Dr M.I. Saleem, Dr. Ali Jaffrey and Abdus Sattar Ghazali. For further details, contact: Tel: APPROB: 2425315 Fax: 5323751.

Daniella Desert Rally

The annual family rally for Danes will take place on Friday, March 23. For registration, please call Henrik — Tel: 3727688/92 ext. 246 before Wednesday, March 14.

Now at Messilah Beach Hotel

Health Club
LIFE Saving Courses with Royal Life Saving Society coach. Grade 1 Examiner will be commencing in March 1990. Ergocycle fitness computer tests and courses now available. Jazzercise/aerobics/staying power/yoga and ballet exercise classes also available. Swimming classes will commence March 1990.

Shakespeare's Macbeth
The London Shakespeare Group who have played in more than 50 countries and who are presently on a tour of Middle East, will present "MACBETH" at the Kuwait English School, Salwa, on 21st and 22nd March at 8 am and 23rd March, 1990 at 6 pm. The cast includes actors and actresses with classical backgrounds who have appeared at London's prestigious National Theatre, various West End Theatres, Television and Radio. For ticket reservations & further information ring: 5740256/7, 5625316, 5718143, or 5731782.

Bits n' Pieces
An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel: 5634663.

Cookery class
A COOKERY demonstration class organised by the 'Seva Vanitha' for the Sri Lankan ladies in Kuwait, will be held at the Sri Lankan ambassador's residence on Wednesday 7th March, 1990, at 4.00 pm.

APPROB
ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (APPROB) is holding a seminar to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Pakistan Resolution. Javed Iqbal, the son of the renowned Muslim philosopher and poet, Allama Mohammad Iqbal and a retired justice of Pakistan Supreme Court will preside over the seminar at Sheraton Hotel on March 25th.

Dr. Iqbal will read a research paper on "the struggle to obtain a separate Muslim homeland between Allama Iqbal's Allahabad address of 1930 and the Resolution of Pakistan in 1940." Mrs. Iqbal, a law graduate from the Harvard University and law professor at the University of Punjab, will speak on "the role of Muslim women in society as envisaged by Jinnah and Iqbal." A number of research papers on the Pakistan movement and the ideology of Pakistan will also be read at the seminar to be attended by diplomats and prominent personalities.

Approb will also hold an evening with Dr Iqbal and his wife on March 24th at the residence of Iqbal Latif to acquaint Pakistani children in Kuwait about the ideology of Pakistan. Dr Iqbal will meet the Pakistani community at the Pakistan embassy on March 26. For further details, contact Approb: 2425315 Fax: 5323751.

Jazz Concert

THE Kuwait Happy Times Jazz Orchestra in concert playing Jazz from Miller to Modern. Hear great Jazz by Kuwait's only 15 pieces "Big Band" March 13, 14 at 7.30 pm in the Kuwait English School. Call 5334912 or 5314107 for ticket information.

Photography classes
PHOTOGRAPHY classes by Anne Eid beginning Saturday, March 17, in Surra. Call: Anne - 2426135.

Punjabi Adabi

THE monthly meeting of Punjabi Adabi Sangat will be held on 9th March Friday at 7.30 pm at the residence of Kishori Lal Sansoy, Jaleeh Shiyookh. Bhagwant Singh Dogra, Jagdish Singh Arora and Najam Akashi will present short story, poem and introduction of poet respectively.

Contact

THE next meeting of Contact, the ladies information group, will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel, 10 am, on Saturday, March 17. Newcomers particularly welcome. For further details tel. 3720197: 4874513; 5388105.

IAC One-Act Play competition

THE IAC has decided to extend the closing date for the II One-Act Play competition, to be held during May, to March 9. All Indian associations wishing to take part are asked to fill out the appropriate registration form obtainable from the IAC office (3904817) or any one of the organising committee members.

SPORTS

Apollo Fitness Centre at Holiday Inn Kuwait

Julie Dent wants you... to check out the new look at Holiday Inn and make 1990 the year for a happier, healthier you. Squash and tennis courts with professional coaches available. Separate gym facilities for men and women, including steam, sauna and jacuzzi. Burn off those extra pounds in Julie's exercise classes or swim your way to fitness in our heated pools. Why not try out our 4-lanes bowling alley or simply relax in the lounge with friends. You have tried the rest, now sample the best. Call in now for further details on membership, activities and events... There is something for everyone. So, whatever your sport, call now on 4742000 ext. 6700 or ext. 6788 for the recreation manager.

Kuwait International Hotel FIT FOR LIFE: Qualified Austrian masseur specialising in foot reflexology, acupuncture, athletic and relaxation massage available everyday. Tennis clinics on-going for all levels of play including Junior, Ladies' and Adult sessions with Frank Novak — an experienced Canadian coach and tennis profes-

sional. Classes total 4 weeks in length and meet twice each week. Private coaching also available and fun tennis sessions for the family. Ladies' Keep Fit Classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ladies' Sauna now offers a 50 per cent discount on the usual entrance fee. Ladies' Day on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm. For details please call: 2530000/8050 (Recreation).

Messilah Beach Hotel

YOU are invited to come and see some of the strongest men in Kuwait compete for the title "Kuwait's Strongest Man — 1990" or try your luck at one of the events: engine lift, weight loss, trailer load, truck pull, endurance or bench press.

Gates open at 9.00 am, prizes on entry tickets, garden fete, stalls, live bands, barbecue and entertainment. For details contact Messilah Beach Hotel on 5624111 ext 739/751.

HOTELS

Holiday Inn

AL AHMADI Coffee Shop: An ideal venue for that business lunch or a relaxing dinner. Michael and Elaine, our duo sing for you every evening from 8:00 till midnight. Choose from

our lavish international buffet and then sit back and enjoy the Holiday Inn's excellent service. Why not treat yourself to our value for money. Breakfast buffet you can always work off those excess calories at the Apollo Fitness Centre.

Al Andalus Supper Club: Spend our Thursday night Arabic style. Savour our exotic Oriental and international food. Relax to the musical entertainment provided by our resident Arabic band. Come and enjoy... you deserve it.

Friday Family Lunch: A great time for the whole family. Prizes and surprises for the children with Disney characters and our amazing magician. A sumptuous Oriental and international buffet complimented by the sounds of our resident band.

Sheraton
COFFEE Shop: A new attraction is the seafood night every Monday where some of the best of sea foods are prepared. For a taste of the best of preparations of sweet and sour, hamour, fried shrimps, Thai style, etc. new dishes every week.

LE TARBOUCHE: Open for lunch and dinner Le Tarbouche offers a wide selection of hot and cold mezza. Every Thursday evening the Arab world specialities buffet

features popular dishes from different Arab countries. Evening entertainment from our play.

AL HAMBRA: Enjoy the Arabian night theme at the Al Hambra with delicious Arabic dishes buffet style. Enjoy a family brunch every Friday with entertainment and surprises for the children. Nightly entertainment by Gli Amici.

SYRIAN festival: The Syrian festival will take place 3-7 March, 90 with an exhibition in the lobby featuring traditional handicrafts, fashion and information on Syria. A festival with evening performance will be held during this period followed by a superb buffet.

PIANO concert: A piano concert will be performed on March 14 by Dr Mushira Issa at 7.30 pm in the ballroom at Kuwait Sheraton.

For more information call on 2422055 ext 675.

SAS
AL GHAZEER: Sails again and offers you a unique experience of the old seafaring Kuwaiti tradition. We prepared special menus you can enjoy onboard. Available for half day or full day trip. For reservation, pls. call 5657000 ext 416.

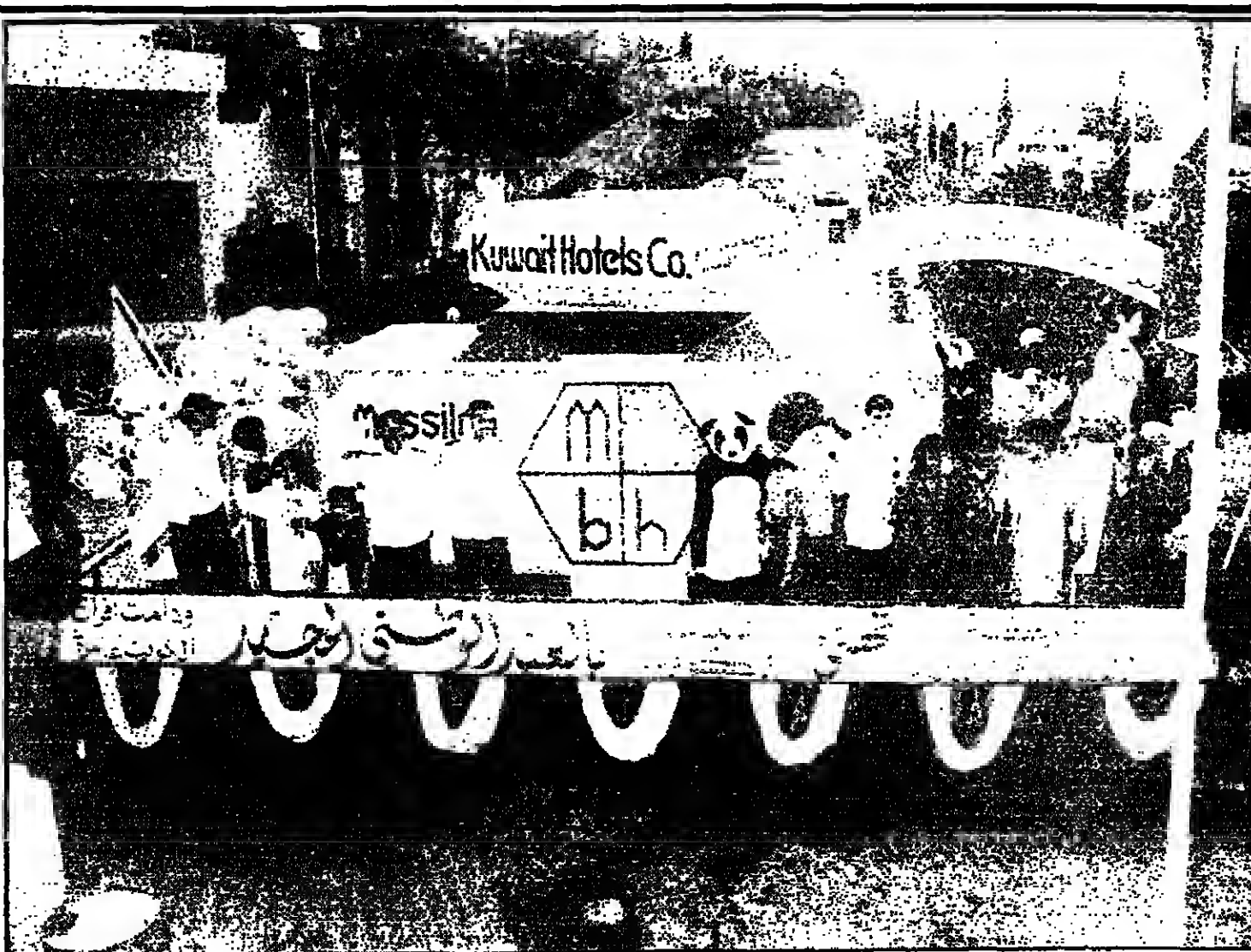
AL BOOM: The only floating restaurant in town. Mag-

nificent array of mezza — delicious Arabic hor's d'oeuvres together with wide range of international appetizers and salads. Choose your main course from succulent varieties of charcoal grilled delicacies — prime American beef, Gulf lobster, hamour or zubeidi. Enjoy your della at the diwan overlooking the sea. For reservation pls call 5657000 ext. 403 or 540.

PEACOCK Room: Our Chinese chef recommends fried prawns with turnips and chilli sauce, crispy fried smoked beef and wide varieties of selections from our chef's recommendations or take your pick from our menu of delightful Chinese cuisine. Make your early reservation, pls. call 5657000 ext 532 or 403.

BISTERETTO: Italian specialty restaurant which also offers international and Arabic dishes. Lunch and dinner buffet daily. Family day every Friday with brunch buffet for the whole family or let your children choose their favourites from our children's menu. Reserve your table now, pls. call up 5657000 ext 531.

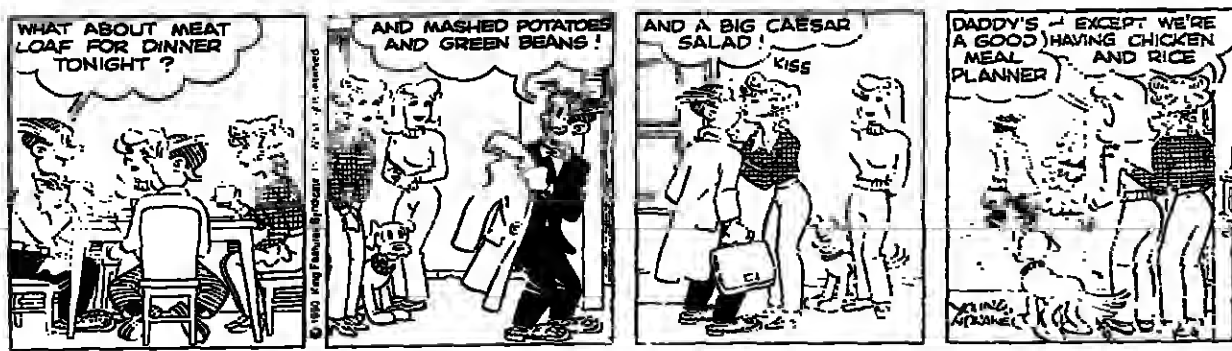
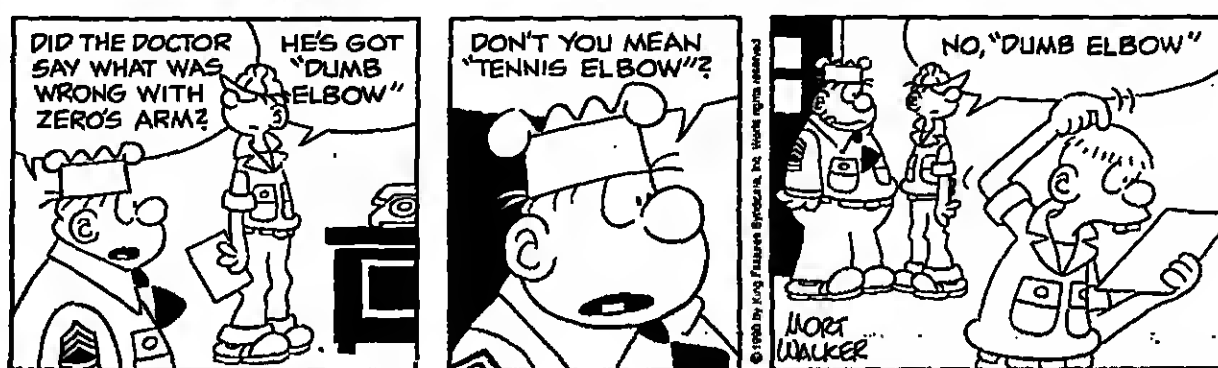
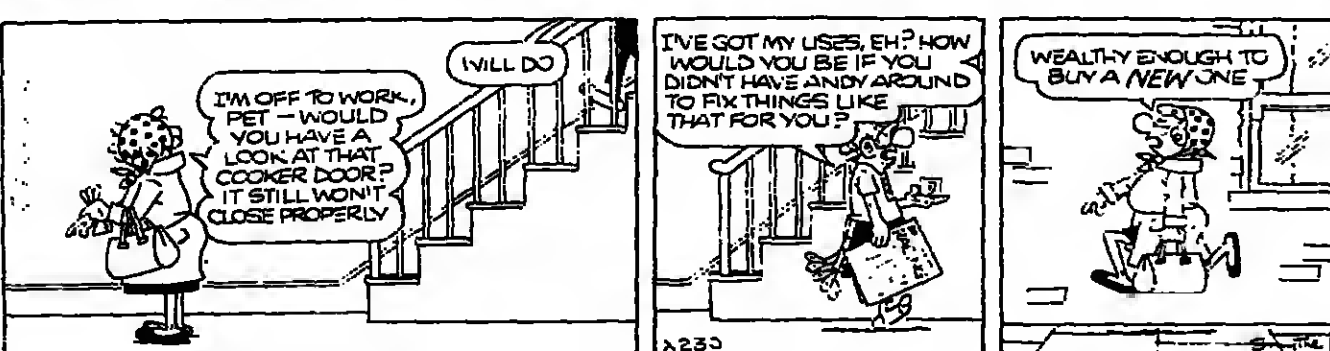
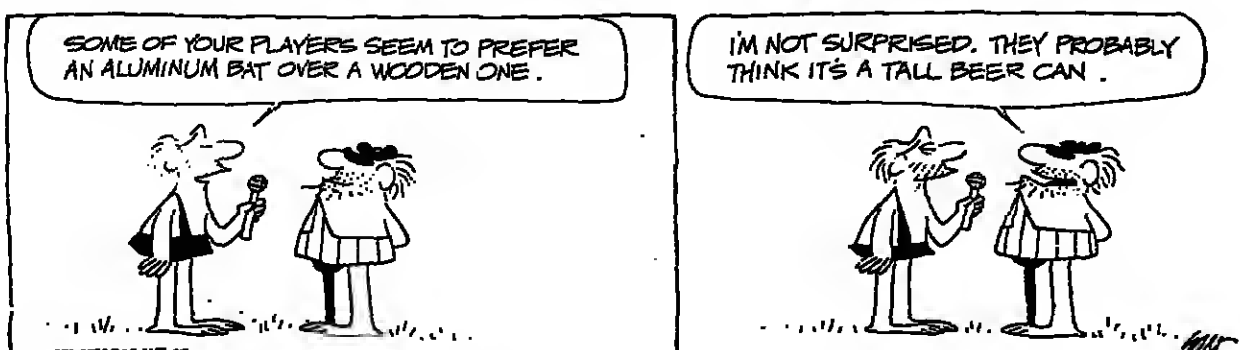
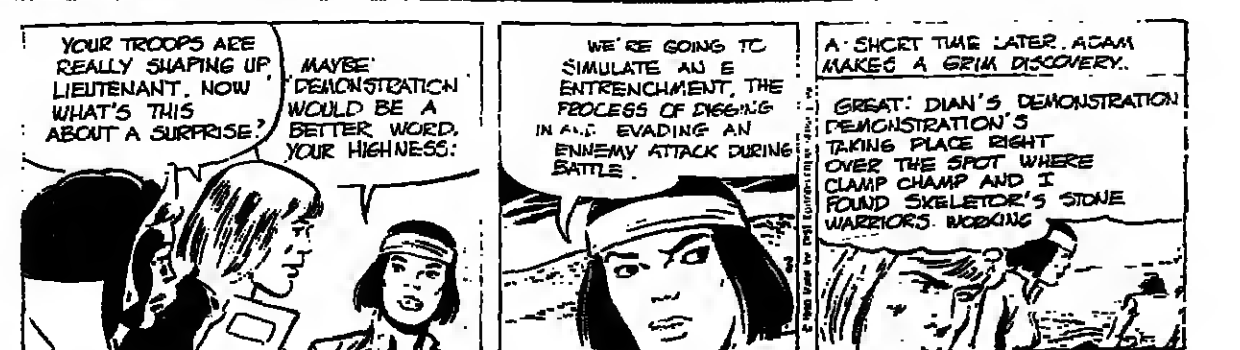
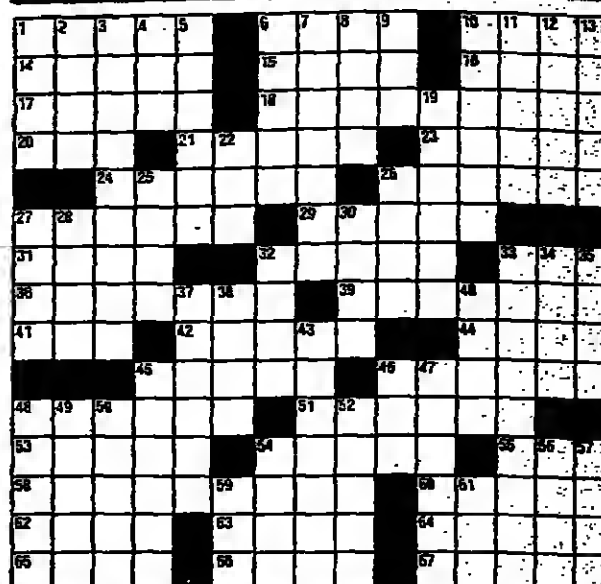
CLOCK: Drive-in restaurant offers varieties of mouth-watering fast food items — juicy burgers, hot french fries, crispy drumsticks, and lot more plus softdrinks and juices.



Kuwait Hotels celebrates National Day

KUWAIT Hotels participated in Kuwait's 29th National Day Festivities on February 25 and 26, 1990 by building a special float for the occasion. The float was decorated befitting the occasion and incorporating the Hotels managed by Kuwait Hotels — Messilah Beach Hotel, Kuwait International Hotel, Khiran Resort and Airport Hotel.

On the first day, the float was taken from Messilah Beach Hotel down the Gulf Road to the Al-Salam Beach in Shuwaik and back, whereas on the second day it went all the way to Fahad and back. Sweets and prizes were distributed to all passers by.

BLONDIE By Dean Young & Stan Drake**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** By G. B. Brown**AGATHA CRUMM** By Bill Hoest**BEETLE BAILEY** By Mort Walker**THE WIZARD OF ID** By Brad Parker & Johnny Hart**ANDY CARR****B.C.** By Johnny Hart**HE-MAN** By G. Forton & J. Shull**TODAY'S CROSSWORD**

ACROSS

1 Factions
6 "La Douce"
10 Spill the beans
14 Luigi's love
15 Existing
16 Lifeline, e.g.
17 Armad forces
18 Helicopter
20 Mischievous child
21 Climbing plants
23 Selpetre
24 Football figure
25 Most ancient
27 Poorly defined
29 Parts of the street scene
31 Tears
32 Olive family
33 Word with faced or listed
36 One more
39 Beg
41 Gain
42 possession
43 Render harmless
44 Notorious spy of WW I
45 Large constrictor
46 Lucky strikes
48 Mel and Mont
51 Wide play
53 Pain: Comb. form
54 Woman's coverup
55 Much-used article
58 Must for a camper
60 Parts of fences
62 Augury
63 The Louvre's Mona
64 Cove
65 Denials, in Dogpatch
66 Person of the courts: Abbr.

DOWN

1 Store sign
2 Jannings of the screen
3 Java container
4 Three, to Pavarotti
5 Tennis player, at times
6 Goddess of peace
7 Governors
8 Reading material, for short
9 Vestment for the clergy
10 Pigtails
11 Lehmann or Lanya
12 Copycats
13 Atelier wear
19 Go into service
22 Poison—
25 Continues
26 Beasts of burden
27 Blow one's horn
28 Party policy
30 Attention-getting sound
32 Composer Khachaturian
33 Whistler in the kitchen
34 Merchandise
35 Name in elevators
37 Part of a wheel
38 Baseball's Slaughter
40 Baba eo—
43 Most adventurous
45 Negative particles
46 Winter ailment
47 Actor Robert—
48 Roger or Francis
49 Animal of the Andes
50 Spiro—
52 Body of soldiers
54 State of agitation
56 Cad
57 Como—?
59 Guido high note
61 Ampersand

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SEDIAN SAYIT PAM
EVERY PLACE JTD
EARTHQUAKES EAR
SNIE URIS TIRALA
RIDES REALLY
SNAILS EGERIA
NDMAD FLEES MDA
ESEL FADES MDWN
GEN PETER LADLE
CAREER FINEST
PHONED HIED
RORYS DIAD ALEC
INN SELSMOGRAPH
DOE EAGLE NINEA
ERR RUSES UNDER

GOREN BRIDGE

THE TIMING IS RIGHT

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A K 5
♥ A K 6
♦ 9 8 6 4 3
♣ K 9

EAST
♠ Q 6
♥ Q J 10 3
♦ Q 10 7
♣ Q J 8 6

SOUTH
♠ 7 4 3
♥ 9 8 7 5 4 2
♦ A K 2
♣ 10

The bidding:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 4 ♣ Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠
Looking at an four hands it might seem that, at four hearts, declarer must lose two trump tricks, a club and either a diamond or a spade. But watch what happens with imaginative play.

Note South's decision to jump to the heart game. With a weak six-card major suit and unbalanced distribution. South had no desire to play in no trump, and a jump to three hearts would suggest either that a no trump contract was a viable alternative or, if South were to

remove three no trump to four hearts, that a heart slam was possible.
West led the jack of spades, won in dummy. What seemed like a pino nola posed a major problem when West, at trick two, discarded a club on the ace of hearts. After some thought, declarer uncovered a line which, with the blessings of Dame Fortune, would allow him to escape home. It would require West to hold the ace of clubs and specifically two diamonds.

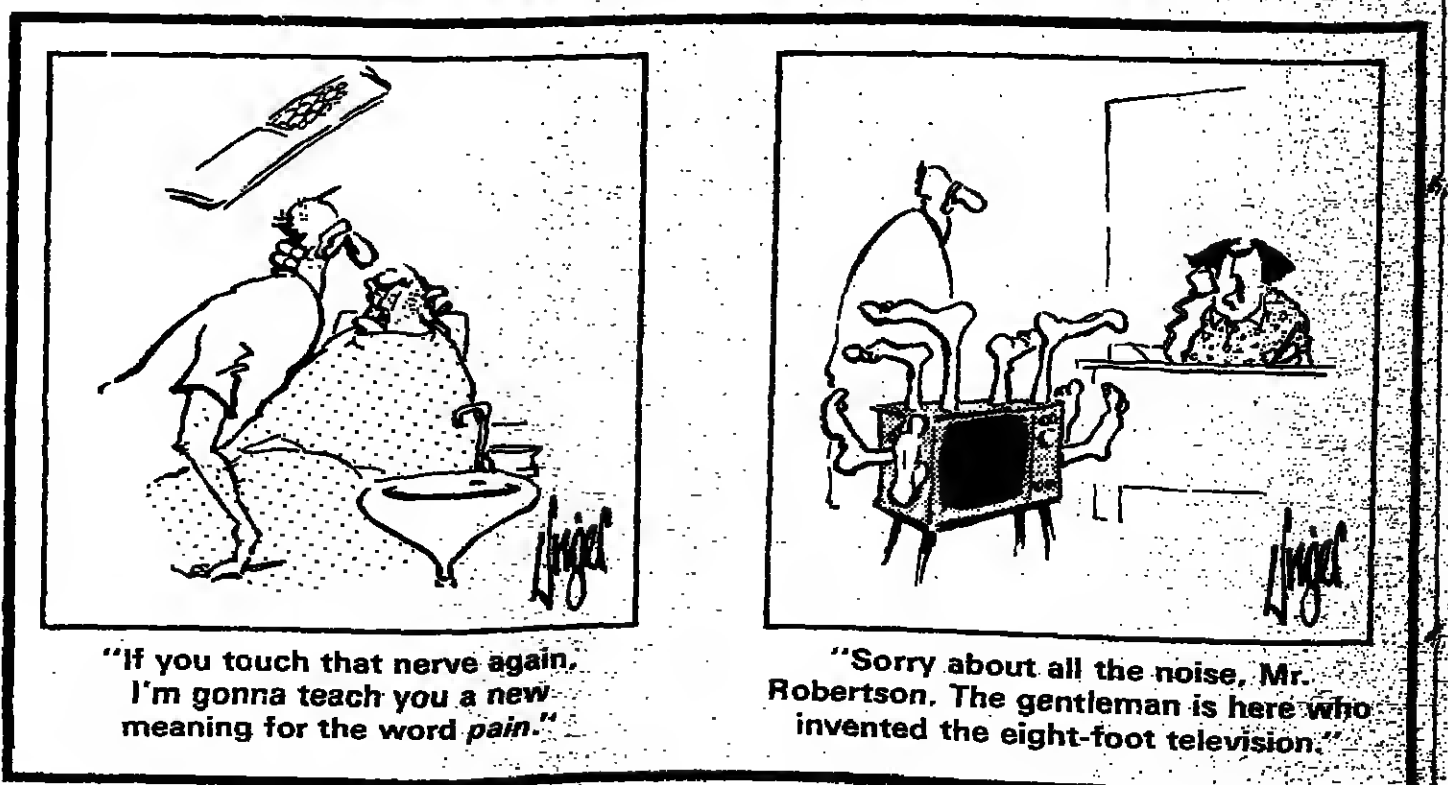
After coming to hand with the king of diamonds declarer cashed the ace and led a club toward the king. West climbed up with the ace to play another spade, taken by the table's remaining high spade. A diamond was discarded on the king of clubs and a diamond was trilled, setting up dummy's diamonds.

The ace of trumps provided an entry to dummy and a winning diamond was led. Whether or not East ruffed declarer would discard his spade loser. The only tricks the defenders collected were two trumps and the ace of clubs.

Note that declarer will go down if he does not cash both diamond honors after first testing trumps. He will be an entry short to establish and cash a diamond.

**YOUR STARS**

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p>Aries March 21 - April 20</p> <p>Something you had expected would be simple will turn out to be, but there is no point in exaggerating the difficulties. You will at long last understand something that has been puzzling you. Keep your wits very much about you. Be generous.</p> | <p>Cancer June 21 - July 20</p> <p>Take a little more notice of what is going on around you. Do not expect to get something for nothing. You should not be too quick to take strangers into your confidence. Be moderate.</p> | <p>Libra Sept 23 - Oct 22</p> <p>You will be pleased if you took the trouble to learn a skill that others did not. The solution to a problem will be easier than you had expected. Make sure you do not exceed any limits and refrain from exaggeration. Be attentive.</p> | <p>Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19</p> <p>There will be some things you must do all you can to avoid wasting time. And try not to dissipate your energies either. There is no need to be rude and abrupt. Be true to your word.</p> |
| <p>Taurus April 21 - May 20</p> <p>Try to see things from other people's point of view, too. Do not take too much for granted. Avoid drinking more than you know you should especially if you intend to drive. Be a little more patient.</p> | <p>Leo July 21 - Aug 22</p> <p>Something you had hoped would will but will prove to be a little bit disappointing. Try to avoid saying exactly what you think especially if the time is not right. Have a bit more faith in yourself. Be sincere.</p> | <p>Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22</p> <p>This is a good period for those in love and for those who think they are in love, too. And it will be easier to face up to a disappointment. Have faith in yourself but do not expect to be able to do the impossible. Be objective.</p> | <p>Aquarius Jan 20 - Feb 18</p> <p>You are liable to deceive yourself into believing that what you would like to be is. You should do your best to avoid doing anything that might injure your health. However, do not believe all you hear about this and that not being healthy. Be respectful.</p> |
| <p>Gemini May 21 - June 20</p> <p>You will be able to enjoy life to the full. Spare a thought for those less lucky than you. Make sure you get all the rest you need, but avoid indolence. Be tolerant.</p> | <p>Virgo Aug 23 - Sept 22</p> <p>You are liable to take too much for granted. Your lucky numbers are 20 and 43. Not everything that happens will be to your liking, but quite a lot is. You will tend to tire easily and should do what is important first of all. Be fair.</p> | <p>Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 21</p> <p>What you had hoped would happen will not but our will what you had feared might. You should do all you can to avoid stress and conflict. Do not expect others to do just what you would wish them to. Be on your best behaviour.</p> | <p>Pisces Feb 19 - March 20</p> <p>The solution to a problem will suddenly hit you, not at all where you had expected to find it. Try not to lose touch with a friend who has moved to another town. You should consider an offer of proposal most carefully. Be reliable.</p> |



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SPORTS

Becker to miss W.German Davis Cup tie

BONN, March 6, (Reuters): World number two Boris Becker confirmed yesterday he would not be available to play for defending champions West Germany in their Davis Cup quarter-final tennis tie against Argentina later this month.

Becker missed West Germany's opening tie against the Netherlands in February to

concentrate on his main goal this year of ousting Ivan Lendl from the world number one spot.

Becker said then he was not likely to play at all for the team in this year's event before hinting later at a tournament in Brussels that he had not ruled out the possibility of helping the West Germans in the awkward

Buenos Aires tie.

Yesterday's statement from the West German Tennis Federation (DTB) that Becker, who is in Indian Wells, California, this week for an ATP event, will miss the match further illustrates his determination to become the number one player in the world.

The 22-year-old's efforts in bringing the West Germans their first Davis Cup win in 1988 and helping them defend the title in Stuttgart last December drained him of energy and mental sharpness.

"We accept the decision," DTB spokesman Jen-Peter Hecht said.

Gunnarsson stuns Wilander

Reneberg topples Mecir



Mecir lost his title in the opener

INDIAN WELLS, Calif., March 6, (Reuters): Mats Wilander, the ninth seed in the one-million-dollar Champions Cup tennis tournament, went down to a familiar foe yesterday.

Wilander, playing in his first tournament since the Davis Cup in February, lost to fellow Swede and good friend, Jan Gunnarsson, 7-6 6-4.

In other upsets, Alberto Mancini, the 11th seed from Argentina, was beaten by the big-serving Dutchman, Michiel Schapers, 6-4 6-1 in the first round. Richey Reneberg, an American ranked 42, toppled 25th ranked Czech, and defending champion, Miloslav Mecir, 5-7 6-3 6-3. Neither player was seeded.

Martin Jaito, the tenth seeded Argentine, was defeated by Yugoslavia's unseeded Goran Ivanisevic, 6-1 6-4. Andrei Chesnokov, the 15th seed from the Soviet Union was also an upset

victim. Chesnokov, ranked 18, was beaten by American qualifier, Brad Pearce, ranked 154, 6-4 3-6 6-4.

Wilander, currently ranked 11, looked a shadow of the player who was number one in the world in 1988 after winning the US Open. Errors flowed from his backhand and he allowed Gunnarsson to dictate the pace, playing defensively to drop the first set in the tiebreak, 7-4, with a backhand into the net.

Wilander made a brief rally in the second set, taking a 3-0 lead, but he could not consolidate his effort, as the big serves of Gunnarsson put the underdog back on the offensive. At 3-3, Gunnarsson broke Wilander on another netted shot by the ninth seed, then kept the lead with a series of aces and served out the match 6-4 with a smash.

"Maybe it was my serve that won the match," said Gunnar-

son, who has played Wilander since their childhood spent in the same Swedish town. "He's a nice guy and we're best friends so it was not so nice to beat him. But he makes more mistakes than he used to."

Wilander came to the tournament ill-prepared, having taken three weeks off before practicing for three days prior to yesterday's action. His rustiness cost him against Gunnarsson.

"It takes a while to get back and this was not enough," Wilander said. "He served better than I expected him to and that got him out of a lot of trouble."

Mecir, once ranked in the top ten, was hampered by back trouble against Reneberg and struggled with his serve. "He had trouble with his back and I was able to break his serve more than he held," said Reneberg. "He didn't look physically one hundred per cent."

Rice helps Heat edge past Jazz

MIAMI, Mar 6, (AP): Glen Rice scored from the top of the key at the buzzer as the Miami Heat rallied from a nine-point deficit in the final 6:08 to beat Utah 105-104, ending a seven-game winning streak by the Jazz.

Rice scored after taking a feed from Sherman Douglas, who had rebounded missed shot by teammate Scott Haffner. The victory last night was Miami's third in six games after the Heat had won just three of its previous 30.

John Stockton's basket gave the Jazz a 104-100 lead with 34 seconds left, but the Heat answered four seconds later with a 3-point shot by Kevin Edwards, who scored 24 points. Stockton missed a layup with seven seconds left and Rice rebounded to set up the winning basket.

Nets 128, Kings 111
Chris Morris scored 22 points to lead New Jersey's biggest outburst of the season and give the Nets only their third victory in 21 games, 128-111 over Sacramento.

Sam Bowie and Purvis Short, who scored 14 points in the fourth quarter, added 20 apiece to give New Jersey its second straight victory. The Nets had scored 117 points twice previously.

76ers 128, Clippers 105
Hersey Hawkins tied a season-high with 28 points as Philadelphia handed the Los Angeles Clippers their 20th straight loss at the Spectrum, 128-105.

Results
New Jersey 128 Sacramento 111
Philadelphia 128 LA Clippers 105
Miami 105 Utah 104
Houston 109 San Antonio 105
Golden States 138 Charlotte 117

Gildemeister sails past Kijimuta

BOCA RATON, FLA., March 6, (Reuters): Tenth seed Laura Gildemeister of Peru breezed past unseeded Akiko Kijimuta of Japan in a late first-round match at the \$350,000 Boca Raton tennis tournament last night.

In another late match, Anne Smith of the US rallied to defeat Laura Golarsa of Italy 4-6 6-3 7-6 (7-2).

Gildemeister, who won 6-1 7-6 (7-3), repeatedly wore down her opponent with sizzling baseline shots. After Kijimuta evened the match at 1-1, Gildemeister ran off five straight games to take the first set, then struggled a bit in wrapping up the second in a tiebreak.

In earlier first round matches, Radka Zrubakova of Czechoslovakia, seeded 13th, was bounced from the 56-player tournament

by unseeded Nathalie Guerro of France 4-6 6-4 6-4. American Susan Sloane, seeded 14th, was beaten 2-6 6-2 6-0 by fellow American Peanut Louie-Harper.

Harper said she changed her game in the second set. "In the first set, I was in kind of a funk. I started being more consistent and I found a short ball I was more aggressive and I moved in. I didn't want to just be out there going through the motions."

All other seeded players advanced yesterday, including 12th seed Judith Wiesner of Austria and 16th seed Sylvia Hanika of West Germany. Wiesner defeated Terry Phelps of the US 6-1 6-4 and Hanika dispatched Erika de Lone of the US 6-4 6-1.

In other first-round matches yesterday, Dinky van Rensburg of the US got by Wilfrid

Probst of West Germany 6-1 6-3. Sarah Loosemore of Britain downed Elina Reinach of South Africa 6-3 6-1. Nicole Provis of Australia edged Isabelle Demongeot of France 6-4 6-3.

Also, Tami Whitinger of the US held off West German Sabine Hack 6-1 5-7 6-2. Argentina's Bettina Fulco wore down Karine Quentrec from France 7-5 6-3. Ann Grossman of the US breezed by New Zealander Belinda Cordwell 6-3 6-3. Amanda Coetzer of South Africa downed Louise Allen of the US 7-5 6-3.

Etsuko Inoue from Japan routed Jana Popisilova of Czechoslovakia 6-2 6-0. Shaun Stafford of the US was eliminated by Nicole Jagerman of the Netherlands 6-4 6-3 and Canada's Rene Simpson turned away Pilar Vasquez of the US 6-1 6-4.

Has Beans clinch second place

THE four outstanding matches in the Mouchel Wednesday League mean that the final award winning positions in the Ladies League will not be settled until today. However, there are no such problems facing the men, where the top three placings were clarified last Wednesday.

As reported last week, Soweto Slingers had already won their second successive championship, and the focus thus fell on the battle for 2nd and 3rd. At the start of play, any combination of the next 5 teams could have finished in these two available places, depending on the various results.

Overcoming injury and frayed nerve problems, Has Beans bounced back from only one point in the last two games to take full advantage of a weakened Fantastics side and secure the second place honours with an emphatic victory. The need for any complicated mathematics was further negated by a resounding 5-1 win by Mugs Away at Wezaraapeel, to leave the top three unchanged from the overnight position. Nick Harvey set the Peep off to a good start, but from then on the Mugs took complete control. Tony Wake crowning the performance with a 180 score, which provided his captain Chris Smith with

a timely leaving present as he headed for the Orient the next day.

It was unfortunate that others had to miss out, as Bulls Hitters, Chucckers and Wezaraapeel had all played their part in making the 1989-90 season as competitive as it has for many years, and if Moe, Shower of Toes, and Equalisers can alleviate their sometimes erratic form, an even more memorable season could be in prospect for next year.

The foot of the Mouchel Wednesday Men's League has proved no less interesting, with Grabbers and No Hoppers challenging Fintas Flyers for supremacy in this area. Grabbers came good late on with 7 out of their last 10 points to clear the way for last week's Flyers v Hoppers showdown, and, not wishing to miss out on another good opportunity, the Flyers contrived to record their 10th 2-4 result of the year, as they bagged a second wooden spoon. Karl Royle finally hit pay dirt for the Hoppers with a 140 in 5 high scores, to which apprentice Flyer Mark Sonnerford responded with his debut 140.

Equalisers provided the upset of the day in beating Slingers as they found them in a holiday mood already celebrating their title. A special men-

tion here goes to John Donoyan with another 5 high scores, which included a first 140 as he needed only 5 darts to end his game from a score of 235 — first the 140 then treble 15, centre bull — an impressive way for anyone to end their season. Other first time 140's were made by Zero-Up's Essie Jossie and Tossler Ian Rees, as Hans Hunger and John Scott both had repetitions, and Blackout's Alex McDowell had a league high of 3 140's in a game.

The most number of High Scores Trophy goes to Ian Theuns for a third time, with a count of 57. Nick Harvey, Nobby Burton and John Watson coming next all with totals in excess of 40, but Dave Wheeler must wait for the final 4 results to come in before his 130 finish can be ratified as a Highest for this season.

The latest Mouchel Wednesday Men's League results are as follows:

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|------------------|---|
| Fantastics | 0 | Has Beans | 6 |
| Wezaraapeel | 1 | Mugs Away | 5 |
| Soweto Slingers | 2 | Equalisers | 4 |
| Zero-Up | 1 | Shower of Toes | 5 |
| Bulls Hitters | 4 | Pacifists | 2 |
| Blackouts | 4 | M. Eastenders | 2 |
| Dinar Sources | 1 | Nobblers | 2 |
| Absolutely | 2 | Jabryni Grabbers | 5 |
| Fintas Flyers | 2 | No Hoppers | 4 |
| No Hoppers | 2 | Dinar Sources | 4 |

US name team for Davis Cup

NEW YORK, March 6, (Reuters): Andre Agassi and Brad Gilbert will play the singles matches against Czechoslovakia in a Davis Cup world group tie this month while Rick Leach and Jim Pugh will team up in the doubles, the US Tennis Association announced yesterday.

The United States qualified to face Czechoslovakia in Prague from March 30 to April 1, by beating Mexico last month. Czechoslovakia eliminated Switzerland.

Gilbert, ranked fourth in the world, will be playing in his third consecutive Davis Cup match after winning both singles against Mexico to improve his record to 6-2.

Agassi, the world's eighth-ranked player, appeared in two ties in 1988 and three in 1989, compiling a 7-2 record.

Leach and Pugh made their Davis Cup debut as a doubles team in the opening round win over Mexico.



A tearful Kimble (centre) is led away by Westhead (left) and Fryer. (Reuters wirephoto)

Teammates mourn Gathers

LOS ANGELES, March 6, (Reuters): Tearful teammates said yesterday that college basketball star Hank Gathers, who collapsed and died while playing in a tournament on Sunday, had told them he felt as strong as ever before the game.

"And we just don't understand how a man that strong can leave us so quickly," Loyola Mary Mount teammate Jeff Fryer told reporters. "Hank said 'I feel strong as ever,' before Sunday's game," Fryer said.

Gathers, the highest scorer and leading rebounder in the college ranks in 1989, had just given his team a 25-13 lead in the first half against Portland with a tremendous slam dunk when he returned to centre court and collapsed as his mother watched. She rushed to his side on the court.

"He was the fibre of what we are," Loyola coach Paul Westhead said. "We went to him for rebounds, points for life. Hank was an incredible life force. He was a walking thunderbolt."

"We miss you Hank..." boy-hood friend and teammate Bo Kimble said, his voice choked with emotion.

Gathers, a 23-year-old senior, had been tipped as a first round pick in the National Basketball Association draft this year but passed up the draft to concentrate on his senior year in college.

The six-foot, seven-inch (2.01 metre) player from Philadelphia led the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) last year with an average of 32.7 points and 13.7 rebounds per game. He was the sixth leading scorer this season, averaging 29 points per game.

He was the West Coast Athletic Conference's all-time leading scorer and was listed 11th on the NCAA's list of leading scorers.

Gathers, who was pronounced dead at Daniel Freeman Marina Hospital at nearby Del Ray, had fainted during a game earlier in the season. An irregular heartbeat was diagnosed but doctors had allowed him to carry on playing.

An autopsy will be performed to determine the cause of death, but doctors at Marina Del Ray said the star died of a heart attack.

A memorial service was scheduled at the university today.



Hank Gathers making a basket just seconds before collapsing. (Reuters wirephoto)



Gathers lies on the floor as his team trainers kneel over him. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kay & Associates

KAY & ASSOCIATES is composed of Romeo Velayo, Alex Morales, Jun Quero, Albert Orozco, Teddy Lonoza, Rolly Galichia, Joselito Kai, Lambert Marín Jr., Bobby Quinson, Bertrand Marín, Jojo Medrano, Butch Evangelista, Oscar Alvenda Jr., Archie Galang, Team Muse-Ms Luz Estrella.

Romeo Velayo — nicknamed the "Durahle" for his consistency is a calibration engineer for the Kuwait Air Force. This 5'8" guard forward from Gapan. Nueva Ecija loves reading books, and is also a chess wizard.

Alex Morales — Rah/Rah Morales for his go-go spirit is a 29-year-old mechanical engineer working for the past 5 years for the Kuwait Air Force. He is the team captain for the KAI Squadron and he has been with the team since 1985. The 5'7 1/2" guard hails from Tondo, Manila and loves to read books, swimming, jogging, volleyball and table tennis.

Jun Quero — Jun is a 37-year-old calibration engineer working for the Kuwait Air Force, Ministry of Defence. Born in Urdaneta, Pangasinan, he says that KPBL is OK as far as basketball is concerned.

Albert Orozco — an electronics engineer also works for the Kuwait Air Force. This 31-year-old forward hails from Baguio City. He loves lawn tennis next to basketball.



Tha Kay & Associates squad.

Teddy Lonoza — Teddy to his friends is also an engineer for the Kuwait Air Force. This 5'4"-100 lbs / guard forward is from Daraga, Albay.

Rolando Calichia — Rolly as he is fondly called is 29 years old. Next to basketball, he likes bowling, table tennis and computers. He says that KPBL will enhance Filipino basketball enthusiasts, and will bind them for a common cause.

Joselito Kai — "Atoy" Kai for his resemblance to ex-PBA cager Atoy Co. is 31 years old and hails from Davao City. He is an instruments technician for the Kellogg Plant Services. This 5'9"

centre forward has been in Kuwait for the past two years.

Lamberto Marín Jr. — Junior is 22 years old and hails from Iloilo City. This 5'7 1/2" forward nicknamed "The Glider" for his elegant drives to the basket is a BSN commerce graduate.

Bertrand Marín — The youngest in the KAI line-up, this 6'0" centre is a younger version of the Glider-Marín. Power moves is his speciality and he surely is a force to reckon with based on his performance in last year's KKK games.

Jojo Medrano — The "Utility Man" who plays guard-forward-centre positions with similar effectiveness hails from Manila. He is 30

years old and works for the Kuwait Air Force as an electronics engineer.

Butch Evangelista — The playing coach of the KAI Squadron, this 36 years old — 110 lbs hails from Manila. He is a senior quality assurance engineer also for the Kuwait Air Force. He says that KPBL leaders should do their best to be professional at all times in their undertakings.

Oscar Alvenda Jr. — Oscar is a Kasco employee and plays the guard-forward position. This 26-year-old bachelor is from Manila, and loves throwing events among others.



Alghanim Freight & Travel team.

Bobby Quinson — Bobby is 31 years old and plays the centre forward position for KAI. This 5'9" bachelor is an electronics engineer for the Kuwait Air Force, Ministry of Defence, and has been with the KAI Squadron since 1986. He loves listening to music, electronics and computers.

Alghanim team

Danny Sacoeza — Danny is 5'11 1/2" - 79 kg and plays the centre slot for Alghanim. This 29-year-old electrical draftsman hails from Quezon City and has been in Kuwait for the past 3 years.

Nelson Garcia — Nelson is a 29-year-old guard forward bachelor who hails from Batangas City. This 5'5 1/2" - 75 kg civil foreman works for the Engineering Equipment Inc. and loves singing in his spare time.

Gerry Ungco — is 37 years old and stands 6'2". This slot-man for Alghanim is from Pateros, Metro Manila. He has been here in Kuwait for the last 4 years and is currently working for Hasepel Paints as an operator.

Boyet Macatangay — is 31 years old, and hails from Batangas City. This 5'10" - 65 kg office boy is employed by Kirby - Alghanim, and he has been in Kuwait for the

past 3 years. He is a member of Piza Italia All Star Team (1989), and loves volleyball, chess, darts, and table tennis among others.

Rolando Galicia — This guard forward hails from Pasay City, and is currently employed by the Fahaheel Garage as a driver. He stands 5'7 1/2" and weighs 124 lbs. He also likes to play football.

Jojo Dayao — is 30 years old, stands 6'0", and weighs 75 kg. He was born in Calapan City, and is currently here in Kuwait as a delivery driver for J.M.H. Estate.

Rodolfo Alcoreza — Odeng is 5'10" and plays the guard forward position for Alghanim. He is 33 years old and has been in Kuwait for nearly 7 years. He works for Alghanim as a ducting technical / leadman and has swimming, chess, darts, and magazine readings as his other interests.

Nestor Bauzon — Ace is 29 years old and stands 5'8". He hails from Pangasinan and also works as a ducting technician. This 85 kg guard also loves to play volleyball. Nelson Deulog — This forward guard stands 5'9" and hails from Iligan City. He is 26 years old, and works for Alghanim as a QL team leader.

Cello Dequilla — is 32 years old, stands 5'8" and hails from Iloilo City. This guard forward is currently employed by Alghanim (YAAS) as a Quick Lube team leader and loves reading and swimming.

Rally Zamora — is 5'9" and plays the guard forward position. He is 37 years old and is a service

engineer for Alghanim. He hails from Holo and likes bowling and darts next to basketball.

Romeo Cruz — Romy is the coach for this Alghanim 5. He hails from Tagig, and has been in Kuwait for 2 years. He is currently employed by Serok Services as a welder-fabricator, and he loves to play chess and watch movies in between his coaching.

Edward Balanag — Ed is an industrial engineer for the Alghanim Industries. He has been in Kuwait for the past 2 years and is the representative to the KPBL board of governors of the Alghanim basketball team. He is 32 years old and hails from Nacpan, La Union.

Jose Pancho — is 35 years old and is the team manager. Joe is a materials control supervisor for Alghanim Industries and has been in Kuwait for the last 3 years.

Rey Valino — is a service engineer for YAAS/OS. This BSME graduate of Feati University (1974) is 37 years old and hails from Nueva Ecija. He is the assistant manager of this Alghanim basketball team and next to basketball, he likes tennis (lawn and table), darts, archery, and other ball games.

Levi A. Portugal — Ms Levi is 29 years old and hails from Batangas. She is 5'8" tall and weighs 55 kg. She has been in Kuwait for the past two years, and she is working for the Mowasat Hospital as a staff nurse. This charming lady is a BSN graduate and is the team muse of the 1990 Alghanim basketball squad.

Fouroux takes break from rugby

AGEN, France, March 6. (Reuters) France's rugby union trainer Jacques Fouroux, under heavy fire after poor results this season, has decided to take a six-month break from his post.

Fouroux told Reuters that he had informed his assistant Daniel Dubroca of his decision yesterday. His assistant said that Dubroca will train the team on the June tour of Australia, which features three Tests, and for the international with Romania.

But Fouroux said he stood by his decision. "He retains my confidence," he said. "Nothing has changed. In the (Five Nations) tournament, we won two matches out of four — it was not a bad season. Getting the wooden spoon — that's a bad season."

Fouroux said in an interview with the rugby paper Midi Olympique today that he would definitely lead the French team in the 1991 World Cup finals.

"I decided to take a six-month sabbatical to get the chance to clear my head, recover properly and concentrate better on the future as it is now certain, on the wishes of president Ferrasse, that I will train the French XV until the 1991 World Cup," he was quoted as saying.

Involved
The federation president said Fouroux would travel to Australia with the team as tour manager but would not be involved in working with the squad on the field.

Dubroca, a former French captain, will be assisted there by Jean-Pierre Romeu. Fouroux originally asked to take a break after the 21-0 defeat at Scotland at Murrayfield two weeks ago, which followed a 26-7 drubbing by England at the Parc des Princes 14 days earlier. But Ferrasse said he persuaded him to stay on.

The temporary removal of Fouroux from the firing-line could calm the rumblings of revolution which have appeared in rugby circles this year after France's worst season for a long time.

Former prop forward Robert Paparemborde has called for sweeping changes, hinting that both Ferrasse and Fouroux should go.

French full-back Serge Blanco will be out of action for at least three weeks with a calf injury, sustained in Saturday's five-nations match with Ireland; the French Rugby Federation said today.

Blanco limped off the field in the first half of the 31-12 victory at the Parc des Princes.

The federation said his calf muscle had swollen to twice its normal size and it was still not possible to take proper tests to determine the extent of the damage.

But it said he would definitely be out of action for three weeks, and perhaps longer.

SAS bridge

RESULTS of the SAS Bridge Club game played on Sunday:
1st Lollo Murthwaite & Nahil Akel
2nd H. Hughes & J. Wilae
3rd H. Famas & C. Sawabini

Thrilling finish in one-dayer Indians edge Kiwis



Kapil Dev

WELLINGTON, March 6. (Reuters) India beat New Zealand by one run today in a thrilling finish to the fourth one-day cricket match of a triangular series also involving Australia.

New Zealand's innings ended at 220 when Kapil Dev bowled Richard Hadlee off the penultimate ball of the match. Needing one to tie with India's score of 221 and two to win off two balls, Hadlee was clean bowled going for a big straight drive.

It was India's first win in the series which Australia lead with two wins. India and New Zealand are tied for second with one win each.

The match was reduced to 49 overs, when an over was lost because of rain during the Indian innings.

India's total of 221 was made possible by promising 16-year-old Sachin Tendulkar, who shared a brisk first wicket stand of 41 runs with Kapil Dev. Scoring was slow before Tendulkar began lashing out at Richard Hadlee in the 37th over.

The youngster scored 36 before being caught behind off Shane Thomson. Kapil went on to top-score with 46 runs off 39 balls, including four fours and a six.

Tendulkar left the field on a

stretcher in the New Zealand innings with a suspected calf muscle tear.

New Zealand set off sedately in its run chase and were behind the asking rate when Mark Greatbatch (53) and Ken Rutherford (44) shared an 80-run fourth wicket stand off 88 balls.

The pair were dismissed within five overs of each other. New Zealand required nearly seven runs an over when Hadlee came in at number six. He dominated the bowling with fine shots around the ground, but was also forced to run sharp singles despite a hamstring injury.

New Zealand's tail-enders offered little support for Hadlee, with Ian Smith, Shane Thomson and Gavin Larsen all out cheaply.

Martin Snedden was in with Hadlee when Kapil Dev began the last over. Needing 11 runs to win, Hadlee struck a four, two twos and, attempting a third consecutive brace, had Snedden run out at the bowler's end.

Hadlee went for the winning hit off the second-last ball, but lost the battle of the great all-rounders to Kapil Dev.

Scoreboard
INDIA first innings
W. Raman run out.....0

M. Prabhakar c M. Crowe b Morrison.....36
S. Manjrekar run out.....36
D. Vangarskar lbw b Morrison.....0
M. Azharuddin lbw b Morrison.....29
S. Tendulkar c Smith b Thomson.....36
Kapil Dev c Rutherford b Thomson.....46
K. M. Rutherford b Thomson.....2
A. Sharma c Smith b Hadlee.....12
A. Wassen not out.....4
N. Hirwani c M. Crowe b Hadlee.....0
Extras (lb-13 w-7).....20
Total (in 48.2 overs).....221

Fall of wickets: 1-8 2-66 3-66 4-93 5-122 6-163 7-173 8-207 9-219.

Bowling: Hadlee 9.2-27-2, Snedden 10-0-50-0 (w-3), Morrison 9-0-33-3 (w-1), Thomson 10-0-47-2 (w-3), Larsen 10-0-51-0.

NEW ZEALAND
M. Crowe c More b Kapil Dev.....18
J. Crowe c More b Hirwani.....26
A. Jones run out.....9
M. Greatbatch c Prabhakar b Wassen.....53
K. Rutherford b Prabhakar.....44
R. Hadlee b Kapil Dev.....46
I. Smith c sub (G. Singh) by Wassen.....0
S. Thomson c Wassen b Prabhakar.....2
G. Larsen b Prabhakar.....0
M. Snedden run out.....0
D. Morrison not out.....0
Extras (lb-11 w-5).....17
Total (in 48.5 overs).....220

Fall of wickets: 1-33 2-55 3-68 4-148 5-174 6-195 7-210 8-211 9-220.

Bowling: Prabhakar 10-1-37-3 (w-2), Kapil Dev 9.5-1-45-2, Wassen 10-0-46-2 (w-2), Hirwani 10-0-46-1, Sharma 9-0-35-0 (w-1).

Records will be broken: Flo-Jo

SYDNEY, Australia, March 6. (AP) Sprint star Florence Griffith-Joyner said today she expects fellow American Dawn Sowell to take over her mantle as fastest woman in the world.

Speaking at a press conference in Sydney, Griffith-Joyner said she did not expect her marks of 10.40 seconds for the 100 metres and 21.34 for the 200 metres to stand into the next century, as some experts have predicted.

"Those records are there to be beaten, whether it's this year or ten years time," said Griffith-Joyner, who won both the 100 and 200 metres at the 1988 Seoul Olympic games, and is also known as Flo-Jo.

Griffith-Joyner, in Sydney with her husband Al Joyner to present awards tomorrow night, said she was enjoying her retirement.

West Indies hit by injuries

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, March 6. (Reuters) West Indies, stunningly beaten by England in the first cricket Test and without Malcolm Marshall for the second match of the series starting here on Saturday, may risk playing Curtly Ambrose in an attempt to overcome their injury problems.

There is an outside chance that Ambrose, who is suffering from haemorrhoids, will be called up to replace fellow fast bowler Marshall, who has broken left index finger.

Ambrose, who missed the first three one-day internationals as well as the opening Test and has not played a first-class match since January, bowled again in a club fixture on his home island of Antigua at the weekend.

Ambrose, who has captured 600 wickets in his 17 Tests since his debut in England in 1988, would be the ideal replacement for Marshall. West Indies most experienced pace bowler who injured his finger in attempting a return catch in Saturday's third one-day game in Kingston.

Marshall joined a mounting injury list which includes middle order batsman Gus Logie and opener Gordon Greenidge, who has a chronic back complaint that kept him out of Saturday's match and is still giving cause for concern.

Medium-fast bowler Eldine Baptiste replaces Marshall in the squad for the fourth one-day international in Georgetown tomorrow.

England, who lost the third limited overs game to trail 1-0 in the five-match series after the first two fixtures were washed out, are likely to name an

unchanged side for what will be their first game in Guyana since 1981.

Guyana did not feature on England's itinerary during their previous Caribbean tour in 1986, so strong was its stance against players who had links with South Africa.

In 1981, the Guyana Test was aborted after a deportation order was served on England paceman Robin Jackman, who had South African playing connections.

With the present Guyana government declaring its satisfaction with the 1989 international cricket conference agreement on South Africa, under which players who have sporting links with the republic face a ban of up to five years, the only threat to this leg of England's tour is rain.

Only two days of last year's Test against India were played in Georgetown which, being close to the equator, receives more rain per annum than any other Test-playing centre.

The most recent first-class match, a four-day Red Stripe Cup fixture, was washed out in January without a ball being bowled.

The wicket at Georgetown's Bourda Ground, traditionally a graveyard for fast bowlers, is expected to be full of runs and with the short boundaries and fast outfield, tomorrow's game should be a high-scoring affair.

Last year, West Indies amassed 289 for two from only 43.5 overs as they crushed India, but an England side of renewed determination look certain to run them close.

Probable teams:
West Indies: Viv Richards



Curtly Ambrose

(captain), Desmond Haynes, Carlisle Best, Richie Richardson, Carl Hooper, Keith Arthurson, Jeff Dujon, Eldine Baptiste, Ian Bishop, Ezra Moseley, Courtney Walsh.

England: Graham Gooch (captain), Wayne Larkins, Robin Smith, Allan Lamb, Alec Stewart, David Capel, Jack Russell, Philip DeFreitas, Gladstone Small, Eddie Hemmings, Angus Fraser.



The winners with the chief guest and other officials.

Starlite win tourney

STARLITE stole the limelight, beating Unity by 1 wicket to retain the "Gulf Bank Trophy" permanently as decided by the sponsors.

This victory, the fourth over Unity, was mainly achieved due to excellent teamwork, superb bowling and better fielding compared to Unity, who dropped no less than 10 easy catches.

Unity batting first, opened through Lewis and Ahuzar with the former mistiming a hook shot off Sakhawar and top edging the ball for Maqsood Srr to hold a well-judged catch. Bittoo and Ahuzar slowly but steadily began to restore stability to the side's total and both batting cautiously took the score to 43 before Ahuzar (28) was caught behind by Perwaiz off Zia.

Another fine partnership blossomed as Babar and Bittoo put on 30 runs. Bitto (25) edged Sakhawar to keeper Perwaiz and Unity were in some trouble at 78 for 3 in 14 overs. Skipper Chris joined Babar and produced perhaps the best stand of the innings and brought respectability to the total. Both went for the singles and twos, at times mixing caution with aggression. At 135 Babar was yanked by Sohail for 33. Thereafter Chris (45) Sikander (16) Irfan (29) Sarfaraz (27) took Unity to 246 in 45 overs. Wickets were shared by Sakhawar (2) Zia (2) Iqbal (3) Sohail & Qayyum 1 each.

Starlite began the proceedings with Mohammed Iqbal and Iqbal Rizvi facing the new ball attack of pace and spin from Irfan and



Iqbal Rizvi receives the trophy.

Manzoor respectively. Ruos flowed easily as both openers put on 62 in 11 overs.

Iqbal Sr left caught behind by Shabbir off Lewis, for 25. Bader (4) and Maqsood Sr (1) were dismissed cheaply and Starlite were in the same state as Unity at 74 for 3 in 14 overs. Iqbal Jr should have been dismissed at least thrice but for dropped catches went on to score 81 before Bittoo penetrated his defence, leaving Starlite on 161 for 4 in 28 overs.

Earlier, Qayyum had played another responsible innings with fine legside placements, running beautifully between the wickets to register 40 valuable runs for his side. Maqsood Jr (15), Sohail (12) aided by further dropped catches ensured a breath-taking victory in this gripping final. Starlite made 247 for 9 in 44.3 overs. Bittoo (3)

Lewis (3) Robin, Manzoor & Sarfaraz (1) each shared the spoils for Unity. Special mention must be made of Sikander's smart fielding, Qayyum's chancesless 40, Bittoo's all round performance and Chris picking up two fine catches. After the game, both teams are introduced to Sourav Al Samari, senior manager (HRD), the chief guest, and also to senior officials Meher, Mehta, and Qasim Kazmi of Gulf Bank.

During his brief speech the chief guest emphasised the bank's strong support for the promotion of cricket in Ahmadi. He also thanked both teams, supporters, and organizers, then presented the winners cup to Iqbal Rizvi of Starlite. Mohammad Iqbal was declared Man of the Match for his plucky 81 runs and 3 wickets for Starlite.

Browning gets off to good start



Yamaguchi with her partner Rudi Galindo during practice on Monday. (Reuters wirephoto)

HALIFAX, March 6. (Reuters) Defending champion Kurt Browning is sitting in the driver's seat at the World Figure Skating Championships after yesterday's compulsory figures.

But American Christopher Bowman, runner-up to Browning at the 1989 world, has no intention of just going along for the ride. Browning improved on his fifth place finish in figures at the 1989 World Championship by placing second in figures yesterday.

The 23-year-old rancher's son from Alberta, Canada, said he was delighted to get the event off to a good start.

"It does take some of the pressure off and make the rest of the week easier," Browning said at a team press conference.

Last year at Paris, Browning backed up his fifth place in figures by winning both the short and long programmes to earn the overall title. With Bowman sixth in figures yesterday, Browning said he's in better shape to dictate his own destiny as he bids to retain his world title.

"It's my job now to go out there and get a clean programme (in Wednesday's original short programme)," said Browning.

"Last year I needed to win or at least come second in the short. This time, I just have to skate clean," he said.

"It's important to have the potential to reign over your own destiny. I want to be the one on Thursday (in the final free skate) who will know what I have to do and not have to wait to see what someone else does in order to beat me."

The compulsory figures, won by West German Richard Zander who is not a strong free skater, are worth 20 per cent of the total mark. The short programme is worth 30 per cent and Thursday's free skate the other 50 per cent.

Bowman, a Californian who dropped out of the United States Figure Skating Championship in February due to back spasms, told reporters at a US team press conference his back was fine.

When Kristi Yamaguchi was born it seemed it would be a miracle if she could just learn to walk properly, let alone compete in the World Figure Skating Championships in two events.

As a child, Yamaguchi had to endure casts encasing her feet and then years of special shoes before progressing to ice skating and dancing as therapy for her clubbed feet.

Now the 18-year-old American is one of the top figure skaters in the world, whirling and gliding over the ice at the World Championships this week without a hint of her earlier problem.

The reed-thin Yamaguchi is the first woman in more than 20 years — since American Jo Jo Starbeck in the late 1960s — to compete in the singles and the pairs events.

The 4-foot, 11-inch (150 cm, 40 kg) Yamaguchi was to begin her busy week with the pairs' short programme this evening and then come back early tomorrow to kick off the women's event with this compulsory figures. Later tomorrow he will compete in the finals of the pairs.

Yamaguchi was tasted victory in both events. She was the 1988 women's junior champion and also won the top spot in the pairs juniors with her partner Rudi Galindo, 20.

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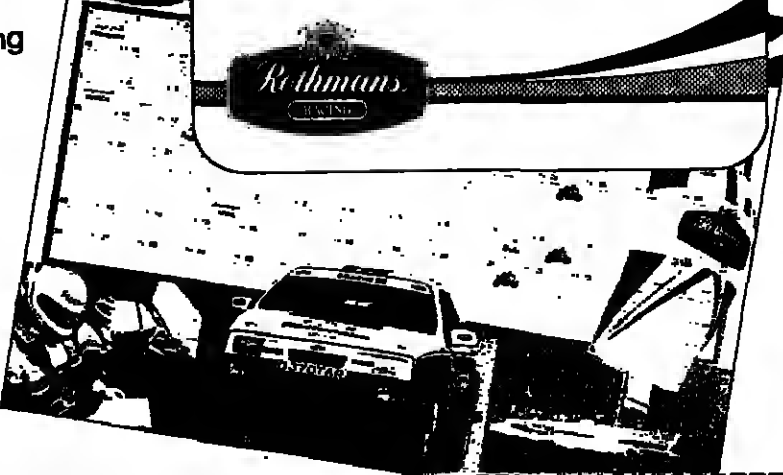
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Milan set to face Mechelen

Dutch pursue Cup ambitions

LONDON, March 6, (Reuters): The Dutch exiles of AC Milan and cosmopolitan Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven pursue their European Cup ambitions on foreign turf in the opening skirmishes of the quarterfinals tomorrow.

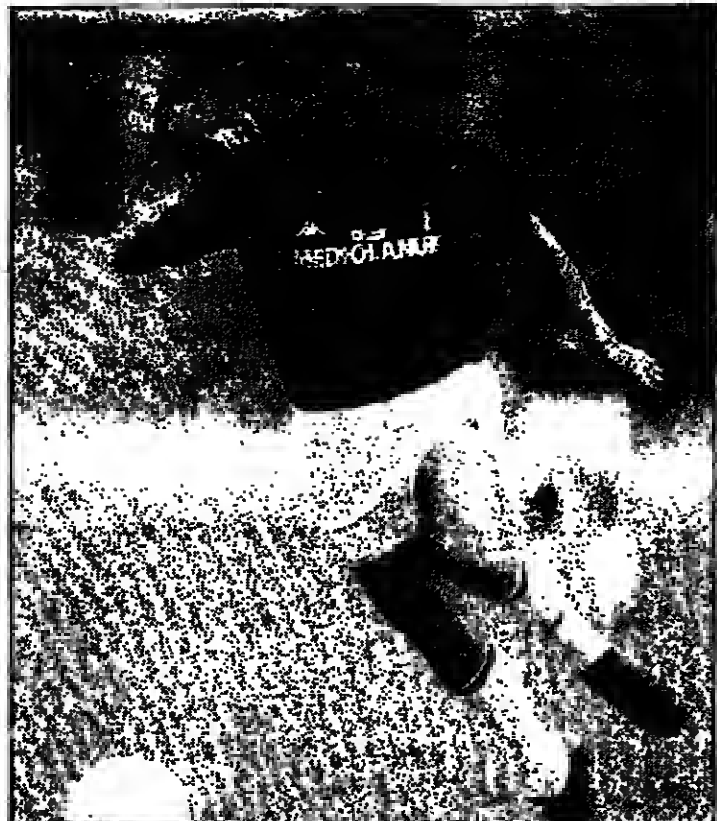
Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard, the Dutch masters whose goals led to the downfall of Real Madrid in the previous round, have not been 100 per cent fit but will be powerful influences for holders Milan against Belgian champions Mechelen.

The first-leg match has been switched to Heysel Stadium in Brussels, scene of bleakest memory where 39 fans, most of them Italian, were killed in a riot at the 1985 European Cup final between Juventus and England's Liverpool.

Milan will be the first Italian club to play in the stadium chosen by Mechelen because it can accommodate 36,000 spectators — more than twice as many as their own ground.

PSV Eindhoven, Milan's predecessors as European Cup champions, raise the official Dutch challenge though they are likely to field an eleven featuring only five Dutchmen in Bayern Munich's Olympic Stadium.

The Dutch will be almost as much in evidence in Brussels — even in the injury-enforced absence of AC Milan's Ruud



Van Basten: inspires Milan attack

Gullit and Mechelen's Erwin Koeman, both members of the Dutch side which triumphed in the 1988 European Championship.

Van Basten, Gullit's successor as European Footballer of the Year, and Rijkaard will find compatriots John Bosman and Graeme Rutjes in the Belgian

opposition.

Van Basten, troubled by an inflamed tendon, inspires the Milan attack, while Rijkaard, brought on as substitute in last Sunday's 2-1 league win over lowly Ascoli despite a sore throat, is likely to be drafted into central defence to shackle Bosman.

PSV suffered a major blow on Sunday when prolific Brazilian marksman Romario broke a leg in the 9-2 eclipse of Den Haag which kept Eindhoven a point clear at the top of the League.

Romario, who scored twice against Den Haag before his injury, left the pitch to a standing ovation on his last European outing, having netted a second-half hat-trick to help dispatch highly-regarded Romanians Steaua Bucharest, 1986 European Cup champions, 5-2 on aggregate in the second round.

Flemming Povlsen is set to join fellow Danes Soren Lerby, Ivan Nielsen and Jan Heintze in a PSV line-up in which Belgian defender Eric Gerets and Czechoslovak sweeper Jozef Chovanec add to the Dutch side's international look.

Lerby, a Bayern stalwart for three seasons, will bring all his enthusiasm to the task of defeating his old club, who will be without the creative midfield talents of injured Olaf Thon.

West German coach Jupp

Heynckes has understandably strong doubts that his young, injury-dogged side can emulate the great Bayern teams which won the European Cup three times in the mid-1970s.

Big-spending Marseille take their expensive skills into Eastern Europe where they pursue millionaire manager Bernard Tapie's dream of becoming the first French club to win the European Cup.

Jean-Pierre Papin, who has scored in all Marseille's four European outings this season, leads an array of talent which cost 150 million francs (\$27 million) to assemble.

Uruguay midfielder Enzo Francescoli, England winger Chris Waddle and Brazil defender Carlos Mozer will be among the costly stars on parade against the Bulgarian League leaders.

Portugal's Benfica, whose two European Cup triumphs date back more than quarter of a century, entertain Dnepropetrovsk in the fourth quarterfinal.

Benfica expect to welcome back Swedish midfielder Jonasson and Brazilian defender Aldair Santos in a line-up likely to boast two Swedes, three Brazilians and an Angolan striker.

The European Cup Winners' Cup and UEFA Cup will have new owners this season following the exits of respective holders Barcelona and Napoli.



HH the Amir yesterday met the heads of delegations of the countries which are taking part in the 15th Gulf Cup football tournament.

Dupree slams Gordon over Tyson dispute

NEW YORK, March 6, (UPI): Mike Tyson received support in his legal battle against his manager when a former member of the New York State Athletic Commission claimed economic exploitation of the fighter had been covered up.

James Dupree, who was relieved of his position on the commission last week, said NYSAC chairman Randy Gordon has unjustly favoured manager Bill Cayton in his legal dispute with the former heavyweight champion. Tyson, backed by promoter Don King, and Cayton have lawsuits pending against each other.

Tyson is trying to break what he calls an illegal contract with Cayton, while the manager accuses King of interfering in his contract with Tyson.

Dupree says Gordon and Gov. Mario Cuomo have stood by idly while Tyson has been exploited by Cayton. He said his calls for an investigation of the situation have been ignored. Gordon labelled the charges "absolute nonsense" and said there is a hearing scheduled for tomorrow to hear counter charges filed by King and Cayton.

"I hope to correct what I consider a serious injustice of the commission," Dupree said at a news conference. "I'd like to see a full investigation of the commission. I hope I'm wrong but I'm very suspicious there's an injustice going on this commission."

"If what I suspect is true, Mike Tyson is being ripped off between \$20 million and \$40 million."

Dupree was supported by W. Franklin Richardson, secretary of the National Baptist Convention.

USA, which includes Tyson and King as members. Richardson was even more critical of Gordon and Cuomo.

"What we have here is a modern day type of slavery," Richardson said. "Mike Tyson is viewed as a piece of chattel and a piece of property. We want him treated as a person. The bottom line is, what we have here is racism and corruption."

Gordon said the charges were off base.

"Racism? Corruption? Absolute nonsense," Gordon said. "It's a joke and I hope everybody can see through that."

"We're going to respond to it by addressing it at a meeting next Wednesday. They want to twist our arms to make us do something at their pace. We will announce our findings after our meeting next Wednesday."

Gordon said a hearing called for Feb. 27 was postponed because Dupree was relieved of his duties and replaced by Herb Washington. The previous day, Dupree said on reason was given for his dismissal after 6-1/2 years on the commission.

Gordon said Dupree's second three-year term ended last May and Cuomo nominated Washington to replace him, but the state senate did not confirm the appointment until this week.

Gordon said he would meet with Washington and Commissioner Rose Trentman tomorrow to rule on the contract dispute. He said the hearing has been delayed because the commission changed legal counsels and there were "thousands of pages of testimony to read."

Tyson, who has earned over \$50 million in the ring, held the world championship from 1986 until Feb. 11, when he was knocked out by Buster Douglas in Tokyo.

At the heart of the dispute are two contracts Tyson signed with Cayton.

Basketball team

OVERLAND PARK, Kan., March 6, (Reuters): The University of Maryland men's basketball team was placed on three years probation yesterday for recruiting violations, the National Collegiate Athletic Association announced.

Perez injured

PARIS, March 6, (Reuters): American soccer player Hugo Perez said today he may miss this summer's World Cup finals in Italy after breaking a leg in a match on Saturday.

Romario stable

EINDHOVEN, Netherlands, March 6, (AP): Romario de Souza Faria, the Brazilian soccer ace who has broken a split bone, was at home in stable condition yesterday and doctors said his recovery and rehabilitation might take at least 10 weeks.

Italian driver

MILTON KEYNES, England, March 6, (Reuters): Italian driver Alex Caffi has injured a small bone in his shoulder and will not make his debut for the Formula One team in the US Grand Prix at Phoenix, Arizona.

Coaching scheme

LONDON, March 6, (Reuters): British athletes Diane Edwards and Ann Williams, 300 metres gold and silver medalists at this year's Commonwealth Games, are to benefit from a unique coaching exchange scheme between Britain and East Germany.

Belgian wins

NEVERS, France, March 6, (AP): Belgian Eddienne de Wilde sprinted ahead of a bunched pack yesterday to take the second stage of the Paris-Nice cycling race.

Open champion

FIFE, Scotland, March 6, (AP): British Open champion Mark Calcutt said he will not be allowed to use his pingeye 210s to defend his title this summer at St Andrews because they do not conform to regulations.

Iditarod race

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, March 6, (AP): Four-time champion Rick Swenson took an early lead yesterday in Alaska's Iditarod trail sled dog race, and dog drivers at the back of the pack faced a trail laden with volcanic ash from the most recent eruption of Mount Redoubt.

Egyptians pelted with fruit after Cup exit

ALGIERS, March 6, (Reuters): Egypt's soccer players were pelted with fruit and rubbish by Algerian fans after the team were knocked out of the African Nations Cup yesterday.

Egypt lost 1-0 to Nigeria in a group quarterfinal match on a day when Algeria became the first country to qualify for the semifinals by trouncing Ivory Coast 3-0.

Booted by 65,000 Algerian fans, the Egyptians were stopped for 10 minutes by a shower of objects before being able to enter the changing rooms. The players walked off the field under heavy police guard.

Algeria was furious after Egypt announced last week it planned to pull out of the eight-nation competition because of fears of violence by Algerian fans.

But Egypt, who qualified for this summer's World Cup finals in Italy after beating Algeria last November, sent its B team at the last minute.

Rachidi Yekini hit Nigeria's winner in the eighth minute of a mediocre match, but the result ensured the Nigerians stayed in the Cup after being thrashed 5-1 by Algeria on Friday.

Algeria, though not always convincing, showed the efficiency of their striker: in a combative game with an Ivory Coast side whose best player, Abdoulaye Traore, was sent off after a clash.

Rabah Madjer, the game's outstanding player, was behind all three goals, starting in the 24th minute with a superb one-two with Djamel Menad, who thrust Algeria ahead.

In the second half, Algerian defender Kamel Adjas replaced the injured Rachid Adghigh, only to be forced to go off himself through injury.

It seemed with nine minutes left that both teams were content with a 1-0 score, which would have qualified Algeria for the semifinals and allowed Ivory Coast to qualify if they at least drew with Nigeria on Thursday.

But the game ended with a two-goal burst as Cherif Elouazzani fired Algeria's second from a pass by Madjer in the 81st minute and Cherif Oudjani headed the third a minute later.

Standings

Standings in the African Nations Cup soccer tournament, group A (matches played in Algiers) yesterday (tabulate under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Algeria | 2 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 4 |
| Ivory Coast | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Nigeria | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Egypt | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 0 |

Kuwait face Qatar in vital match

THE 10th Arab Gulf Cup title will be at stake today when Kuwait take on Qatar at 3.45 pm at the Peace and Friendship Stadium. The withdrawal of the Iraqi team from the championship, left the title to be decided between Kuwait and Qatar only. None of the other three teams can clinch the top spot.

Qatar have collected 4 points from their three previous fixtures and are on top of the table while Kuwait collected three points from two games only. A win for any of the two teams will make them champions of the tournament.

A win for Qatar would make their total 6 points and oo other team can reach this total. Similarly, a win for Kuwait increase their tally to 5 points, enough to become champions. They can after that afford the luxury of losing

their last match against UAE on Friday. Kuwait team will be further strengthened in today's match by the return of their veteran skilled midfielder player, Nasser Al Ghanim who couldn't play against Iraq because he was sent off in the previous match against Oman. Only one player Waleed Al Fulaj will be out of action for Kuwait for getting two bookings.

On the other hand, Qatar will play with their complete line-up. All eyes will be centred on Qatar's veteran striker, Mansur Muftah who scored two goals in his country's 4-2 win over Oman. He will be assisted in the attack by excellent in-form striker Mahmoud Sufi and Adel Khamees. Midfield maestro Issa Ahmad will also be available to play.

Kuwait's main problems remains in their midfield. This line is still slow and tends to go

back rather than forward.

The Kuwaiti coach has a number of good strikers to choose from including Salah Al Hassawi, Mohammad Ibrahim, Muayyad Al Haddad and Hamad Al Saleh. The Kuwaiti defense is the most stable and dependable line so far.

A capacity crowd is expected to turn out to watch the decisive match. A draw today will postpone the decision on the new champions till Friday. If the two top teams collect an equal number of points, the goal difference is not counted and a decider match will be played later. This possibility can happen if the last two matches end in draws. Qatar and Kuwait will thus have 5 points each.

There is no entrance fee to witness the matches.

Colombia not deterred by death threats

BOGOTA, March 6, (Reuters): Colombia's national soccer team said yesterday it will play in June's World Cup tournament in Italy despite death threats from a group seeking to rid local soccer of drug money.

"Of course we will go. We qualified and we must go," said a spokeswoman for the Colombian Soccer Federation.

In February the team suspended practice and play after a group calling itself Cleanliness in Colombian Soccer threatened to

kill players, coaches and several sportswriters.

The group, which claims to represent bettors, demanded that the national team exclude players from four local teams it said were financed by billionaire cocaine barons.

This is the first time in 28 years that Colombia qualified for the World Cup. Players feared for the lives of their families, and many Colombians feared participation in the World Cup could be in jeopardy.

Although play is suspended, the spokeswoman said: "Players are practicing with their local clubs, but not together as the national team."

She said the national coach would announce within 15 days when soccer activity would resume.

Professional tournaments on the local level have been suspended since last November 22, a week after a referee was shot dead in Medellin, home to a feared cocaine cartel.

Pirelli Trophy

CAPRI Cricket Club, who defeated Evergreen in the semifinal last month is due to clash with arch rival Kifco Cricket Club in the finals of Pirelli Trophy scheduled to be played on Friday March 9, 1990 at Sabah Al Salem (NC) ground.

The 45-over full day final match is sponsored by Pirelli Construction Company and organised by Kuwait Cricket League (KCL).

Pirelli Construction's area manager G.P. Nicholson will be the guest of honour, who will give the trophy and distribute individual prizes to both the teams along with prizes for the Man of the Match and the Best Bowlers.

Women fed up with sports in Pakistan

KARACHI, Pakistan, March 6, (AP): Sprinter Naveed Halai has forgotten what it's like to race in shorts.

The last time was 1979. Then fundamentalists turned their attention to women's sports and it's been track suits ever since.

The election of Benazir Bhutto as prime minister in 1988 sparked hopes that restrictions on women's athletics would be loosened, but little change has come.

Despite being allowed to participate in the South Asian Federation Games last year, women have been cut from the national games, to be held in Peshawar in late March.

Men are still banned from watching women's field hockey games and track and field events, not to mention swimming and gymnastics. Baggy track suits are required for most sports.

So, despite being a competitive runner — she won a bronze medal in the recent games — the 24-year-old Ms. Halai is hanging up her cleats.

"I'm fed up," she said during an interview at Karachi's National Sports Training and Coaching Centre. "I've given a lot to sport and got little in return."

Others, including Naushaba Khan, considered Pakistan's best female athlete, are joining her.

Pakistan is a nation with world class athletes. Men dominate squash and cricket superstar Imran Khan is world famous. The men's field hockey team is second best in the world. Basketball is popular as is soccer and



Pakistani girls get ready to start a race.

badminton.

Before the rule of Gen. Mohammad Zia ul Haq, who seized power in a 1977 coup, women regularly took part in national competitions. They ran in shorts and played field hockey in skirts.

Zia banned men from watching certain women's sports, especially the ones with the most movement or the most exposed skin. Table tennis, for example, was open to male viewers but not running races. Badminton also passed the test because it is played inside.

Zia was killed in a mysterious airplane explosion in 1988. After the election of the Western-educated Ms. Bhutto later that year, some changes occurred. Women were allowed to take part in the South Asian Federation Games in Islamabad. The prime minister also appointed a relative liberal, Brig. Zaffar Hayat, to head the Pakistan Sports Board.

Hayat, a former field hockey star, said his main goal is to see women take part in the Asian Games in Beijing later this year.

"If not, I will quit," he said.

But he has already come up against strong opposition, including threatening phone calls and the criticism of his mullah at the mosque where he prays.

Several conservative members of the National Assembly have also voiced opposition to the move. With Benazir's bold on power still tenuous, may think the government would not want to risk a political crisis over women's sports.

Hayat says the root of the fundamentalist opposition to women's sports is sex.

"We are so sexually frustrated in Pakistan," he said with a booming laugh. "Whenever a Pakistani man sees a little skin, he goes crazy in his heart. We are afraid of this feeling and we blame women for it."

The result has been a backlash against women's sports. Lack of money has also hurt athletics. A country of more than 100 million, Pakistan has seven major stadiums and one international standard sports centre.

Patriotism, Hayat said, is his reason for pushing women's sports.

"If you have healthy mothers, you will live for 100 generations," he said. "If Pakistan is to progress, women have to play an equal part."

He has taken a cautious, if not somewhat sneaky, approach. On the first day of track and field events in the South Asian Federation Games last year, Hayat had his women athletes wear green track suits. Fundamentalists activists in the crowd still jeered them and several of the runners were poked and prodded by extremists.

Their time was slow. The next day, when religious activists did not attend, Hayat replaced the suits with relatively snug tight, which provided less wind resistance.

The result, a bronze medal for Ms. Halai and three others in the 100 metre relay.

Still, Ms. Halai said she wasn't satisfied with the pace of change. "They give us no encouragement and no money," she said. "Maybe the next generation will have a better time."

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